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HONKY TONK MAN'S
LIVING NIGHTMARE!**

47727 December 1988

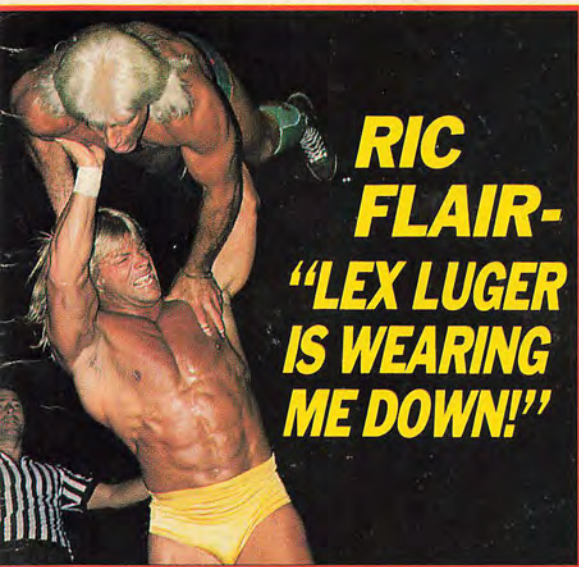
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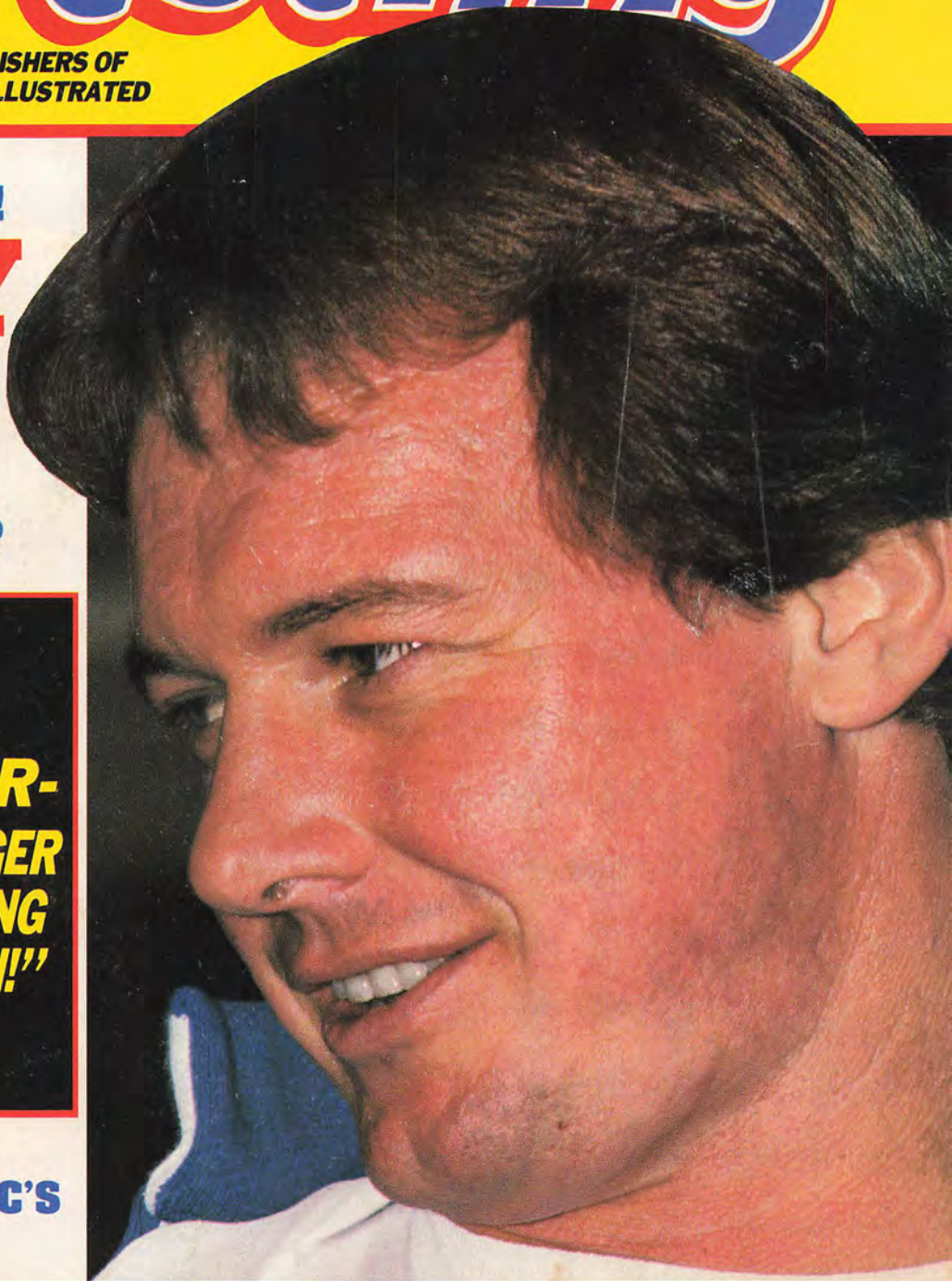
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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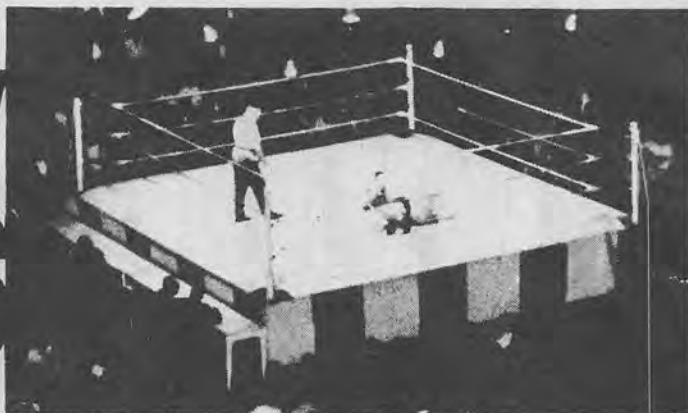
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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THE FOUR COCKROACHES?

Did you ever notice how smoothly The Four Horsemen run when they compete four against one? And did you ever notice how, when the odds are evened up, they scatter like frightened cockroaches after a light has been turned on?

For this reason, I think that The Four Horsemen should be called "The Four Cockroaches." Actually, make that "The Five Cockroaches," since J.J. Dillon can scatter with the best of them.

ART BACKSTROM
Chicago

SAVING THE CWA

I have a need to express a very strong complaint against the CWA. Please, don't get me wrong: I love the CWA and its wrestlers. That is why I feel I must write this letter. I love the wrestlers because they are some of the greatest talents in the world and the CWA just ignores them.

Max Pain, who is, deservedly, all

over your magazines, has been said to be the greatest new talent in the country, and the CWA let him slip away. The CWA is down to a total of five first-string fan favorites; they recently lost Tom Brandi, too.

When they lost Pain, the bottom fell out of the promotion. Just look at a guy like John Paul, who now wrestles in the AWA with Ricky Rice. When he was in the CWA, he won a total of two matches in one year's time! Now John and Ricky are the top contenders for the AWA World tag team title. The CWA simply refused to see John's talent and potential.

If someone can hear me, maybe the CWA can be saved.

AMANDA BISHOP
Southaven, MS

STOP THE MADNESS

I just got through watching an NWA match between Al Perez and Bobby Fulton. Frankly, I'm disgusted. After Perez was disqualified and the match was clearly over, Gary Hart and

Perez continued to beat up on Bobby.

I just feel that something should be done about this—no matter *who* it is. I feel that it should be an automatic fine and at least a 30-day suspension! It's bad enough when the manager interferes, but it's ridiculous what wrestlers are allowed to get away with—whether they win or lose!

One last comment: The NWA's *Main Event* television show Sundays on WTBS is usually very good. The only problem is that there are so many commercials that the last match is usually cut off before someone wins. And the last match is often the best match on the card!

JOANNE THOMAS
San Francisco

TRUST P.S.

After reading "One On One" in your October 1988 issue, I feel that I must call for all fans to finally trust Michael Hayes. In other issues, you have written very positive articles about Michael, but only after hearing the truth from his own lips can I truly believe that his turn for the good is just that: for good!

The best part about the interview is that it was a showcase for Michael Hayes. He was able to retain the winning, fun-loving personality, yet eschew the sadism and brutality that characterized The Fabulous Freebirds. Michael is still the same man. The only thing that has changed is his respect for the Von Erichs. I respect that.

You see, I was a great fan of The Freebirds, and their breakup left me depressed. But your "One On One" feature was great consolation: Just be-



Ricky Rice and John Paul are improving their teamwork significantly with every match. Reader Amanda Bishop thinks the CWA has suffered since losing Paul to the AWA.



Michael Hayes beats up on former Freebird partner Buddy Roberts. Reader Sue Faulkner is heartened that, in spite of this feud, Hayes continues to retain his fun-loving personality.

cause he's no longer a Freebird doesn't mean Michael is a wimp! I think he proved that he's certainly not that! As long as Michael stays Michael, the Freebird spirit lives on forever! Who could ask for anything more? It's like having your cake—and eating it, too!

SUE FAULKNER
Los Angeles

APTERMANIA!

I hope you guys at *Inside Wrestling* give Bill Apter the credit he deserves. I

am impressed with Apter for these reasons:

1. His "Names Makin' News" column is consistently prophetic. This was even truer of his October 1988 column in which he predicted Ronnie Garvin's turn to evil. I'll quote Apter directly: "Former NWA World champion Ronnie Garvin has been acting very strangely lately . . ."

Apter was the only journalist of whom I'm aware who accurately drew the connection between Garvin's mys-

terious absence from important matches and his eventual turn to evil. And the fact that Apter drew the fateful connection a month *before* the change is yet another feather in his already furry cap. Not only is he a fearless prognosticator, but the writing is punchy. It's my favorite part of the magazine!

2. Whenever I go to a live card, I always seek Apter out. Although he's very busy setting up his photographic equipment and interviewing wrestlers for his amazing column, he always has a moment to speak to the fans. I remember the last time I ran into him, we had a touching conversation about one of his favorite wrestlers, Mil Mascaras. That Apter, he knows everything about wrestling!

You guys had better be sure not to lose him, because if you do, you'll lose me and many other fans.

DENISE LaFRAMBOISE
Plattsburg, NY

BEEFCAKE FINISHED?

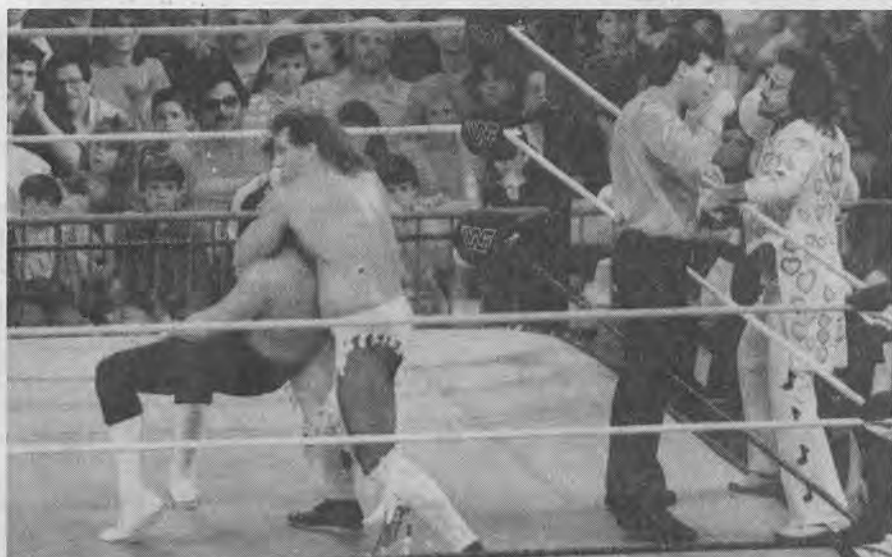
I bought your October 1988 issue and read the article "Brutus Beefcake vs. The Honky Tonk Man: Is 'The Barber' Cutting His Own Throat?" and was greatly upset by it. How dare you say that Brutus is losing his wrestling ability? Brutus Beefcake is a tremendous wrestler!

I tape Beefcake's matches. I watched my tape intently after I read your stupid article. What I saw was Beefcake wrestling superbly. You say the only reason that Beefcake doesn't have the Intercontinental title is because all he thinks about is cutting Honky Tonk Man's hair. I say you could not be further from the truth. If it weren't for *Jimmy Hart*, Beefcake would have the belt.

Watch the tape of *WrestleMania IV* and open your eyes. The only reason Brutus does not have the title is because Hart's interference got Honky Tonk disqualified.

You also say that Beefcake makes a big deal about cutting his opponents' hair. So what? Let the man do what he wants! It's his business, not yours. I

(Continued on page 48)



Brutus Beefcake applies the sleeperhold to The Honky Tonk Man at *WrestleMania IV*. Reader Wendy DeSanto is convinced that Jimmy Hart is the only thing that stood between Beefcake and the WWF Intercontinental title.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

It's time to set the record straight on The Powers of Pain. They are not cowards.

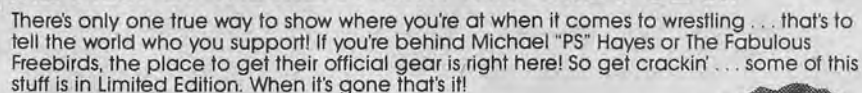
Warlord and Barbarian were tagged with that ugly label after leaving the NWA at the height of their feud with The Road Warriors. Their former manager, Paul Jones, in an effort to deflect some of the blame for their sudden departure, held a press conference to announce that The Powers of Pain had bolted on him when they learned that Jones had signed them to a series of scaffold matches against the Warriors.

Were Warlord and Barbarian afraid to wrestle Hawk and Animal? Hell, yes! But why shouldn't they have been? What Warlord and Barbarian were being told to do was risk their careers on a platform five feet wide and 18 feet above the ring. The Powers of Pain have never shied away from steel cage matches, barbed wire matches, dog collar matches, or any match in which they can rely on their own defenses to prevent permanent injury. But there are too many variables in a scaffold match. A wrestler can trip over his feet and have his career ended in an instant.

Jones has successfully convinced the world that he was wronged when, in fact, he is directly at fault. Managers are supposed to work in the best interests of their wrestlers. Paul Jones has always worked in the interests of Paul Jones and only Paul Jones. He would benefit from the larger purses that the scaffold series would bring, and that's the bottom line. He has no concern about the safety of his men.

Jones didn't even seem to be bothered by the very real possibility that he was risking his own meal ticket by sending the Powers to the scaffold. He wants what he can get when he can get it. Now he has nothing. And the smear campaign against his former wrestlers will not change that.

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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David
Rosenbaum

WHAT IS THE wisdom of a rule that allows a wrestler to avoid getting pinned by slipping his foot over one of the ring ropes?

"He's out of bounds," explained Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez. "By putting his foot over the ropes, he's no longer in the ring, so he can't be pinned."

"That's one of the great things about wrestling," said my friend Ed McGovern. "It's a challenge. You have to pin your opponent in the *center* of the ring, or else it doesn't count. That's part of the whole game: Not only do you have to beat your opponent, but you have to do it so there are no doubts."

Fair enough. But while I understand the reasoning, I'm not sure it's fair to the wrestler applying the pin. I do know, however, that if not for this loophole, Lex Luger would be NWA World champion right now (he covered Flair near the ropes several times during their July 10 match in Baltimore), and Jerry Lawler would have the AWA World belt *and* the World Class title.

Lawler defeated Kerry Von Erich in a recent title vs. title match in Memphis when referee Billy Travis failed to see that Kerry put his foot over the bottom rope at the two-count. Days later, following a review of the videotape, the World Class belt was returned to Kerry. I also read in Liz Hunter's column this month that Lawler phoned Von Erich after watching the videotape and volunteered to return the belt.

But he shouldn't have. Lawler, after all, pinned Von Erich cleanly without using an illegal move, a foreign object, or illegal leverage. (The rule forbidding a wrestler

(Continued on page 52)



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BACK IN THE September 1988 issue, I used this column to lament about the boring state of the sport. Maybe it was simply a temporary funk that led me to such a conclusion, but I'm here to say that I've found a bastion of excitement in an otherwise stagnant state of affairs.

Would you believe it's the AWA?

I recently spent some time in the Carolinas and Las Vegas, and there are some things happening in the AWA that demand close attention.

First of all, there's Jerry "The King" Lawler's AWA World title reign. The noble quality of that reign is aptly examined in Liz Hunter's "On Assignment" on page 18 of this issue, and I join Liz in her salute of Lawler's honesty in returning the World Class title to Kerry Von Erich. I also join the rest of the wrestling world in saluting the fact that Lawler has been defending the title in many federations against the widest variety of opponents the sport has witnessed in years.



Greg Gagne

One of those opponents, however, bears special recognition. Far from his home mats in Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Paul, Greg Gagne received two title shots against Lawler—one in Gastonia, North Carolina (the two men wrestled to a double-countout), and the other in Charleston, South Carolina (Lawler was disqualified for throwing Gagne over the top rope). I find this developing feud interesting, because it seems to me that an AWA World title reign for Gagne is inevitable.

"I'm under a lot of pressure," Gagne told me after the Gastonia bout. "Look, my dad is a 10-time former World champion. That's an awesome record! You think that doesn't stick with me when I step into that ring? I go over to my dad's house, and you ought to see the trophy case he's got! Me? I've got a lot of bruises and doctor's bills for my efforts. And no World title. Craig, I've gotta be honest with you, you saw the bout here tonight. I'm hungry. I want that belt. I'm not trying to live up to my dad, I know 10 title reigns would be too much to ask, but is one too much to ask? I need that belt. I need it bad."

Granted, Gagne's failure to defeat Lawler in the Gasto-

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

nia bout may be the sole reason he sounded so discouraged, but I think that there was a large nugget of truth to what he said. Deep down, he *does* need the World title. No son who enters the same vocation as his father, who has seen his father meet with such success, is able to withstand the pressure of matching that success—at least to a small degree.

Greg Gagne's campaign against Jerry Lawler is going to bear close watching in the months to come.

Someone else worth watching in the

AWA is Col. DeBeers.

"People claim that I am a prejudiced man," DeBeers said in Las Vegas recently, "but the fact of the matter is that the AWA officials and commissioners and even the television network are trying to silence me, so who are the prejudiced ones? For all the self-important blathering about freedom of speech in the United States, I have but one question: Where is it? I don't have it. I live here, I pay my taxes like everyone else, and I'm not allowed *any* freedom of speech. My views are banned before they're even expressed! Prior restraint! It's an outrage of the highest order!"

DeBeers' rantings aside, his return to AWA rings is significant, if only for the fact that Jimmy Snuka—the man with whom DeBeers had a frighteningly violent feud back in 1987—is also on his way back to the AWA. DeBeers was fined and banned from the AWA as a result of that feud, but Diamond Dallas Page, manager of current AWA World tag team champs Bad Company, paid DeBeers' fine and negotiated with officials for his return.

"Mr. Page is one of the few honest men involved in the sport today," DeBeers told me. "I appreciate his help on my behalf, and I am going to live up to the high expectations he has of my performance in the AWA. There's no reason why Page shouldn't have a monopoly on the AWA World belts, and that means that my job is to defeat Jerry Lawler for the World title. It's a job I relish.

"And as for that subhuman slimeball Snuka," DeBeers continued, "I wonder why he hasn't returned to the AWA yet. There are plenty of rumors about him coming back, but I have yet to see his ugly face. Could it be he's afraid of me? Could it be that he knows better than to stick his big flat nose into my business? Could he be that smart? I doubt it."

Maybe the sport isn't as boring as I thought it was a few months ago. Maybe I just haven't been looking in the right places. But for the next few months, at least, I'm going to be paying very close attention to what goes on in the AWA. There's a lot brewing there, and when it all hits the boiling point—watch out! □

BACK ISSUES OF

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.



JULY 1985

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

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NAMES MAKI

Hulk Hogan and WWF World champion **Randy Savage** defeated **Andre the Giant** and **Ted DiBiase** in the tag team main event at SummerSlam '88 August 29 at Madison Square Garden—but in reality, the deciding factor in the bout was **Elizabeth**, the manager of the "Megapowers."



ELIZABETH

Things looked bad for Hogan and Savage late in the bout as Andre kicked Savage out of the ring and later administered two jarring headbutts to Hogan, tossing him out the same side he had dumped Savage. As **Bobby Heenan** and **Virgil** climbed the ring apron to protest Elizabeth standing on the other side, the beautiful manager removed the lower portion of her dress, revealing her shapely legs!

As the "Megabucks" and guest referee **Jesse Ventura** looked on in astonishment, Hogan and Savage regained their bearings. Seconds later, Savage delivered an elbowdrop to DiBiase, followed by a Hogan legdrop. Ventura had no choice—with a bit of help

from Savage—but to count the pinfall on DiBiase.

Also on the card, seen nationally on pay-per-view television, **The Ultimate Warrior** defeated **The Honky Tonk Man** for the Intercontinental championship in only 31 seconds, ending Honky Tonk's 14-month-plus title reign. A rematch was immediately signed for September 27 at the Garden. In the other title match of the evening, **Demolition** defeated **The Hart Foundation** to retain the WWF World tag team championship.

NWA World champion **Ric Flair** was scheduled to make a rare title defense in the Pacific Northwest area against newcomer **Top Gun** on September 20 in Portland.

"You know, there's a guy out there who claims to be a 'world' champion who's been running his mouth," Flair said in a thinly disguised reference to AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler**. "This proves that I'm more than willing to take on anyone who is brave enough to get in the ring with me."



RIC FLAIR

The Continental Wrestling Federation has inherited a host of talent from the now-defunct USA federation. Coming to the CWF will be **Johnny Rich**, **Davey Rich**, former USA champion **Doug Furnas**, and **The Bullet**. CWF promoters were also negotiating with **Tim Horner**, who recently ended his partnership with **Brad Armstrong** in the NWA.



DOUG FURNAS

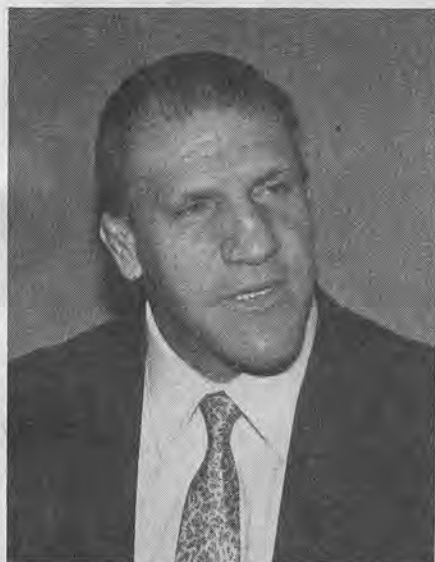
Dustin Rhodes, the son of the legendary **Dusty Rhodes**, was scheduled to make his professional debut for Florida Championship Wrestling on September 6, at Florida's Tampa Fair Grounds.

"The next generation of 'The American Dream' has arrived!" Rhodes proclaimed about his son's impending debut. "There is no doubt in my mind that Dustin will prove to be a chip off the ol' block as far as bein' a superstar in the ring. I think Florida is a great place to start for Dustin. If you know your history, you remember that I cut my teeth down there, too."

The elder Rhodes was scheduled to

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

compete in a series of dog collar chain matches throughout the NWA in September. **Kevin Sullivan**, now an ally of manager **Gary Hart** and **Al Perez**, will be on the other end of the chain.

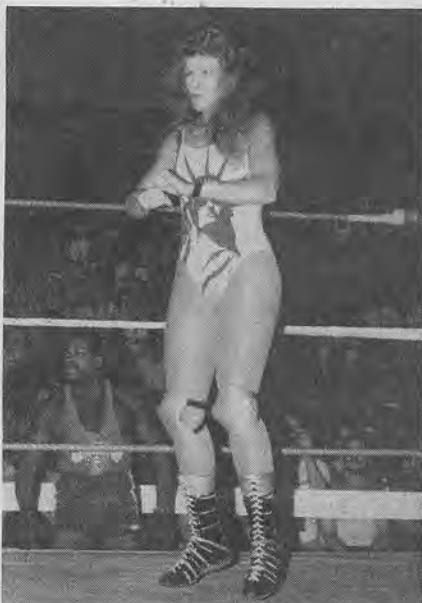
Wrestling's "Living Legend," **Bruno Sammartino**, will be inducted into The Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony to be held January 27 at Caesars Boardwalk Regency in Atlantic City. Also to be inducted are former football stars **John Cappelletti** and **Ted Hendricks** and Dodgers manager **Tommy Lasorda**.

A tournament to determine a new Central States champion is scheduled to be held October 14 in Kansas City. Signed by promoters for the tourney were **Tommy Gilbert**, **Mike Stone**, **The Grim Reaper**, and **Rick McCord**. The former champion, **D.J. Peterson**, vacated the belt when he left for the WWF.

Could "Strangler" **Steve DiSalvo** be undergoing a change of heart? That's what many fans in the Stamped area believe. After being attacked by **Karachi Vice** in several matches against North American champion

Makhan Singh, DiSalvo began teaming with fan favorite **Jason the Terrible**. Jason, however, was double-teamed by Makhan and **Vulkan Singh** during one of those matches, suffering severe head injuries that have put him out of action for an undetermined amount of time. DiSalvo has sworn revenge on the rulebreakers.

AWA promoters are negotiating with WWC women's champion **Wendi Richter** as a possible future opponent



WENDI RICHTER

for AWA women's champion **Madusa Miceli**. AWA President **Stanley Blackburn** said Richter would receive a title shot "if she proves worthy" . . . Speaking of the AWA, wrestling fans were surprised to see "**Diamond**" **Dallas Page**, manager of World tag team champions **Bad Company**, as the ring announcer for the **George Foreman-Ladislio Mijanjos** boxing match-August 25 in Ft. Myers, Florida. Page was asked to be master of ceremonies by promoter **Gerry Cooney**, the former heavyweight contender.

Kendall Windham is now in World Class and has emerged as a top con-



ROCKY JOHNSON

tender to **Eric Embry's** light heavyweight championship . . . **Buddy Roberts** is running for President! His running mate is **Iceman Parsons**. "I'm just what the country needs—an honest man," Roberts insists.

A special event for wrestling fans will be held November 4-6 at the Stevensville Country Club in the heart of New York's Catskill Mountains. Mr. and Mrs. **Rocky Johnson**, in conjunction with the Trans World Wrestling Federation, will present "Weekend With The Champions," a three-day event that will include a wrestling card, activities with the wrestlers, cocktail parties with the wrestlers, and even a *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* open forum that will be hosted by yours truly! Also slated to appear will be **Bruno Sammartino**, **The Iron Sheik**, **Jimmy Snuka**, **Sgt. Slaughter**, **Afa**, **Samu**, **Lou Albano**, and other top wrestling stars. For more information, call the hotel toll-free at (800) 431-3858. Hope to see you there!

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

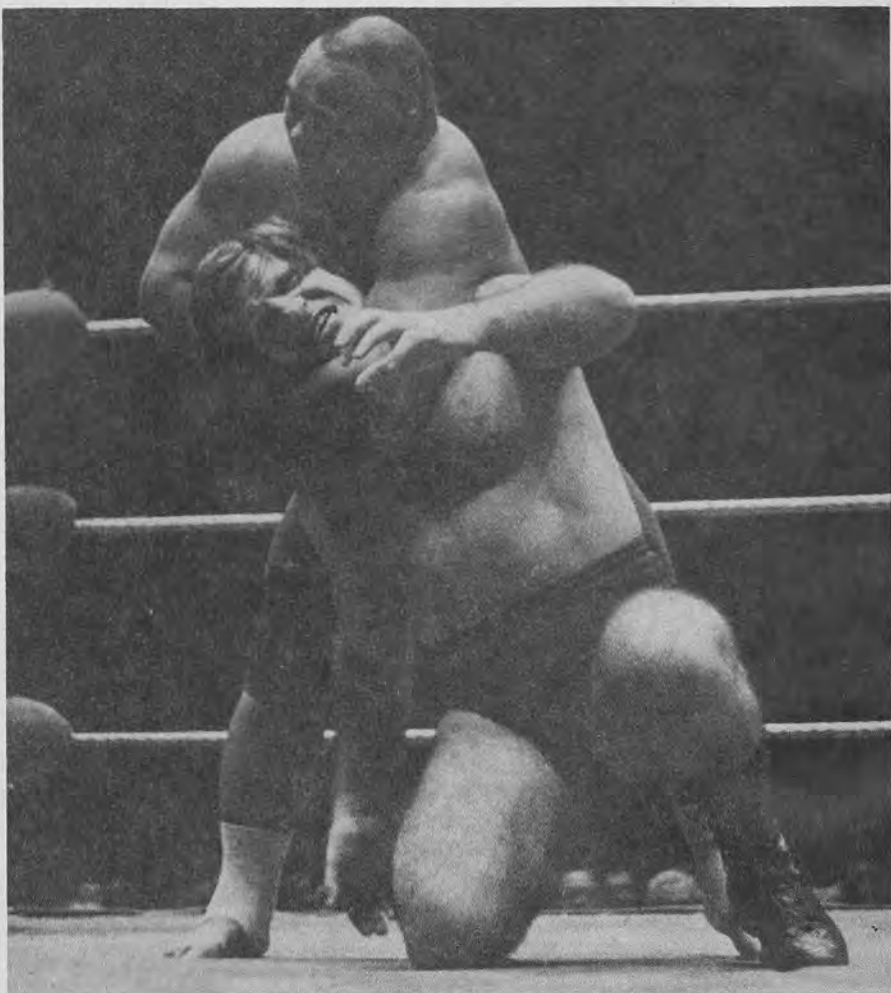
[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

LETTERS RESPONDING TO my "Moment" contest have poured in at a rate best described as quick and curious. While most respondents remain somewhere within the complicated contest rules (name pro wrestling's greatest moment), a few seem to have gotten caught in a web of personal nostalgia.

For instance, Teaneck, New Jersey's Ruth Kraemer plunges 20 years into her baby-boomer past in recalling the Bruno Sammartino-Toru Tanaka bout, the last wrestling match to be held in the old Madison Square Garden.

... on that blustery January night 20 years ago, those fans walking down 8th Avenue, leaving the old building for the final time, were lost deep in thought: How would moving the capital of the wrestling world 20 blocks to the south change the wrestling world?

Ruth, bless her suburban heart, was apparently unruffled by the spectre of Vietnam, the domestic violence and social unrest, and the bloody race riots that were sweeping the land back in 1968. While her entry unfortunately won't capture a T-shirt this time around, it does put Ruthie lengths ahead of the pack for the next contest, in which readers will be asked to describe the greatest



Prof. Toru Tanaka headlocks Bruno Sammartino. Reader Ruth Kraemer recalls this Madison Square Garden bout as the greatest moment ever in wrestling.

moment they've had inside a shopping mall.

Dwayne Stewart, the pride of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, selects a steel cage Intercontinental title match between I-C champion Don Muraco and Jimmy Snuka as the greatest moment in wrestling history. I'll let Dwayne tell it:

... Snuka never won the title, but he definitely won the hearts of every fan in the arena when he

performed his "superfly leap" off the top of the steel cage. The wild cheering for Snuka as he stood atop the cage made Hulk Hogan's victory slam at WrestleMania III silly by comparison. Every wrestler and his dog can do a Hogan bodyslam/legdrop combination, but how many times do you see a single individual perform such a high-risk maneuver

(Continued on page 56)

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Paterra, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.



APRIL 1985

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Paterra.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestling II, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.



DECEMBER 1987

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

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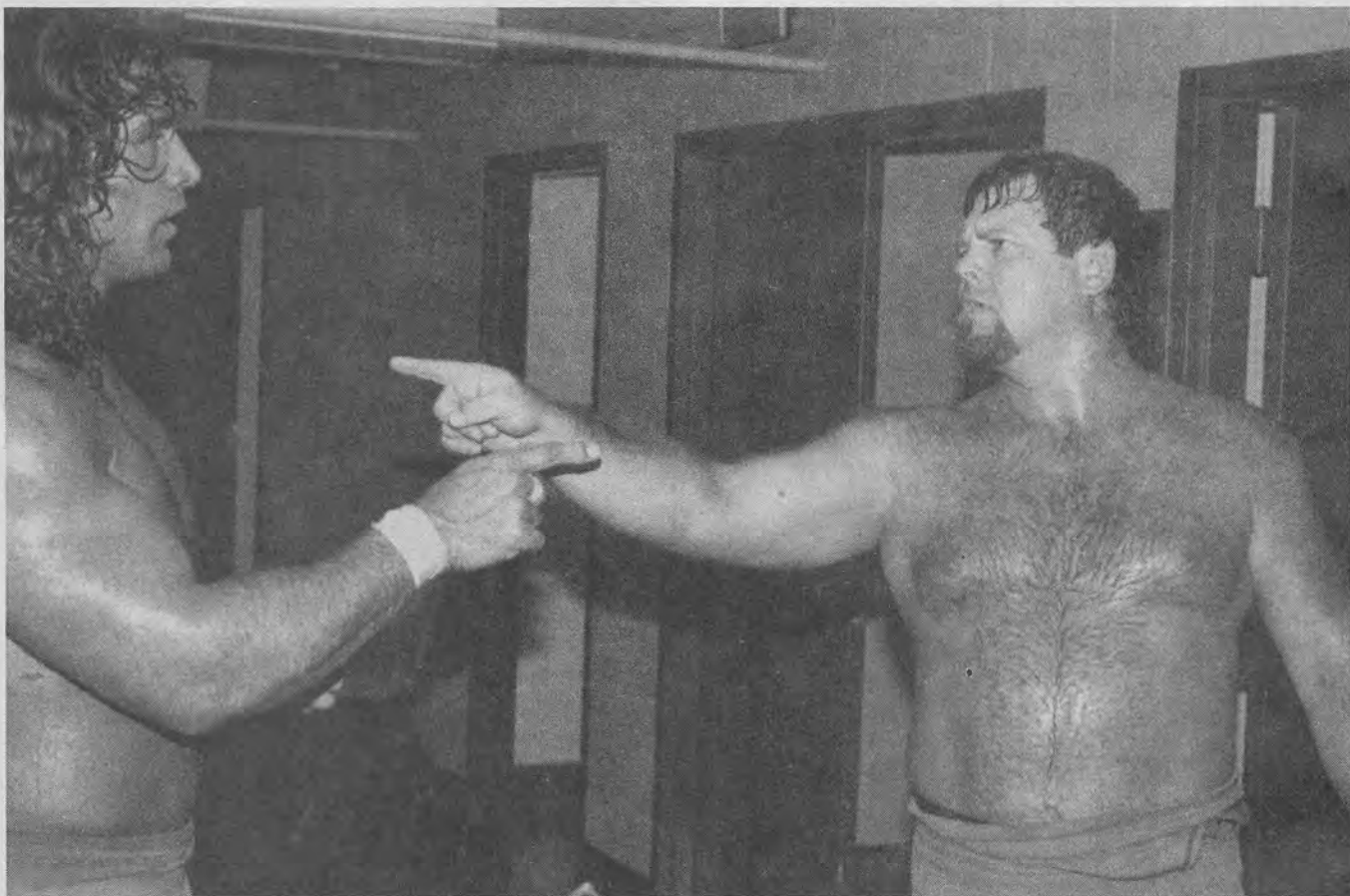
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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



While Kerry Von Erich accuses Jerry Lawler of cheating in their belt vs. belt match, Lawler seems to stand by the finality of the referee's decision. To his credit, Lawler later returned Kerry's belt.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE are honorable men left in professional wrestling—at least one.

A wild belt vs. belt encounter in Memphis between AWA World champion Jerry Lawler and World Class heavyweight champion Kerry Von Erich ended in controversy when Lawler pinned Von Erich and was awarded the World Class belt. Referee Billy Travis, the *third* referee to be called in on that bout (replacing Jerry Calhoun and Frank Morell who succumbed to injury), failed to notice Von Erich's foot dangling over the bottom rope, which clearly should have

negated the pin.

Parenthetically, I'd like to point out that besides the basic unwillingness of rival promoters to work together, the reason belt vs. belt bouts are so rare is because rules differ from federation to federation. In this case, both the AWA and World Class are in agreement: a pin count may not continue if either wrestler is in contact with the ropes.

Back to Memphis. Later that night, Lawler, proud possessor of both belts, watched a videotape of the match with his wife Paula in the comfort of their Memphis liv-

ing room. He was shocked to see Von Erich's foot clearly on the rope as the referee finished his count.

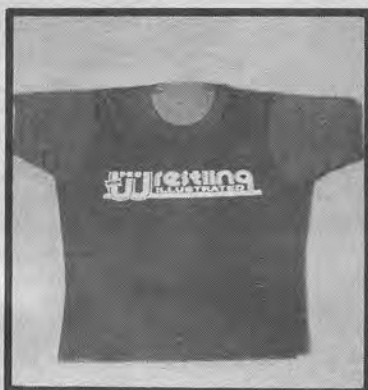
"You see what I see?" Lawler asked his wife.

"I'm afraid so," his wife replied.

Of the major sports, only football employs videotape *during* the game as a means of settling disputed calls. Wrestling—like baseball, hockey, and most other sports—allows teams and individuals to file protests pending a review of films after the game. A protest will (sometimes) be upheld

(Continued on page 60)

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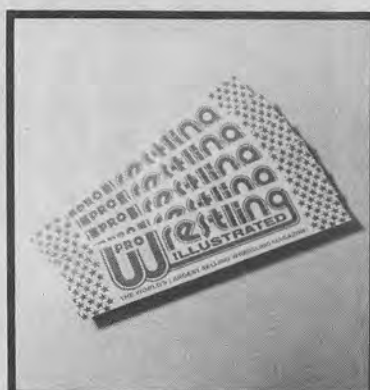
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



PAUL ORNDORFF

"The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated," a quote from the pen of Mark Twain, is now being used by "Mr. Wonderful." "How this rumor that I died ever got started beats me." The former

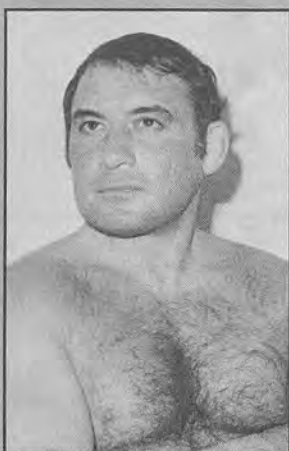
WWF star, who switched from fan favorite to rulebreaker numerous times, now owns and operates two bowling recreation centers in Georgia, and says that he has no plans to return to the sport that brought him his greatest fame.



GORDON SOLIE

The man known as "the Walter Cronkite of wrestling" recently left his play-by-play seat on USA Wrestling broadcasts when the federation was merged with the CWF. Now the veteran announcer is targeting his efforts as a broad-

caster and advisor for the new Florida Championship Wrestling Federation. "We have some great talent here with Dan Spivey, Mike Graham, Steve Keirn, and others. The FCW will make its mark very soon."



CHRIS TOLOS

This maniacal rule-breaker was half of "The Canadian Wrecking Crew" along with his brother, John Tolos, throughout the U.S. and Canada during the '60s and early '70s. One of the most hated teams ever, these ruthless

grapplers held the U.S. tag team championship in 1963 and 1964. Chris, the younger of the two, is now retired from the ring and works as an independent stockbroker near his residence in Hamilton, Ontario.



SEAN ROYAL

Royal established himself as a fine wrestler as half of The New Breed along with Chris Champion. Even though he and Champion were top contenders for the NWA World tag team title, Royal has surprised his fans by retiring. He

is now busy in construction work near his home in Tampa, Florida. "I'm not going to return to wrestling again very soon," responded Royal when asked about his future. "But I don't rule it out entirely."

INSIDE WRESTLING

149

CAPSULE PROFILE

FROM THE JUNGLES of Uganda comes Kamala, the Ugandan savage ... Has also been known as "The Ugandan Giant" and "The Ugandan Headhunter" ... Was reportedly a bodyguard for Ugandan dictator Idi Amin (*"Amin had nothing to fear with Kamala at his side," says Gen. Skandor Akbar, Kamala's manager. "It was only when Kamala left that his troubles began"*) ... Wrestled lions in his native land (*"This was inadvertent, but invaluable, training for the ring"*) ... Brought his special brand of wrestling savagery to the U.S. in the early 1980s (*"This sport had never seen the likes of Kamala"*) ... Many have tried, but so far no one has been able to teach Kamala how to speak English (*"Fortunately, my vast repertoire of languages includes Kamala's native Swahili"*) ... Rumors persist that the massive Ugandan is a cannibal (*"My man consumes a well-balanced diet, which does not include human meat—to the best of my knowledge"*) ... Has wrestled in the WWF, NWA, AWA, World Class, Florida, Mid-South, Mid-Southern, Puerto Rico, and Japan (*"We will go anywhere in order to prove our greatness"*) ... Has feuded with stars such as Jerry Lawler, Dusty Rhodes, and Bruiser

KAMALA

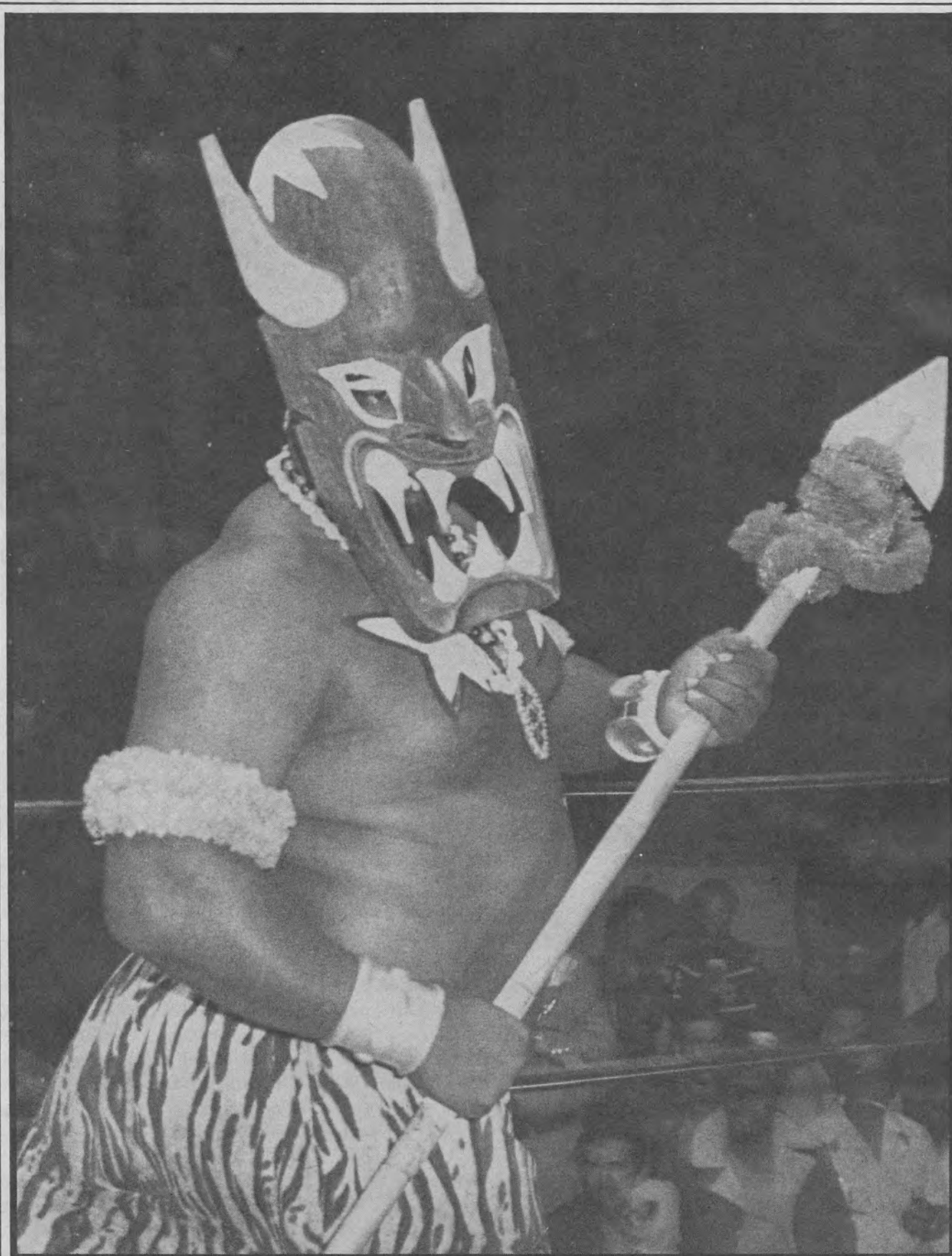


Kamala clamps a nervehold on Andre the Giant. The vicious savage from Uganda has conquered opponents all over the world with sheer brutality.

Brody (*"He has beaten all these men; look at the record books"*) ... Engaged in a horrid feud with Andre the Giant (*"No one, absolutely no one, has given the Frenchman a tougher challenge; Andre was begging for mercy"*) ... Managers have included Akbar, Fred Blassie, Jimmy Hart, and The Wizard (*"No one can give this warrior the guidance I can"*) ... Blassie brought him to the WWF for the first time in 1984 ... Accompanied by a handler/translator known as Friday, who later became Kimchee (*"This Kimchee character was a fraud; Kamala has told me all I need to know about him"*) ... Battled Magnum T.A. at the 1985 Great American Bash and was disqualified when Akbar interfered (*"Nonsense! T.A. had*

no respect for my presence") ... Wrestled Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title and Kerry Von Erich for the World Class belt (*"Kamala is the rightful champion of a dozen federations"*) ... Was allegedly ordered to kill Hogan in the ring! (*"Don't look at me! That bleached-blond idiot is washed-up anyway"*) ... Recently won the World Class six-man title with Buddy Roberts and Ice-man Parsons (*"The savage is a vital cog in my plans for World Class—and worldwide!—dominance"*) ... Preparing to return to Puerto Rico for a battle with Abdullah the Butcher (*"The Butcher thinks he is the only possessor of a killer instinct, but we will prove him wrong. Only the mighty Kamala reigns supreme!"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



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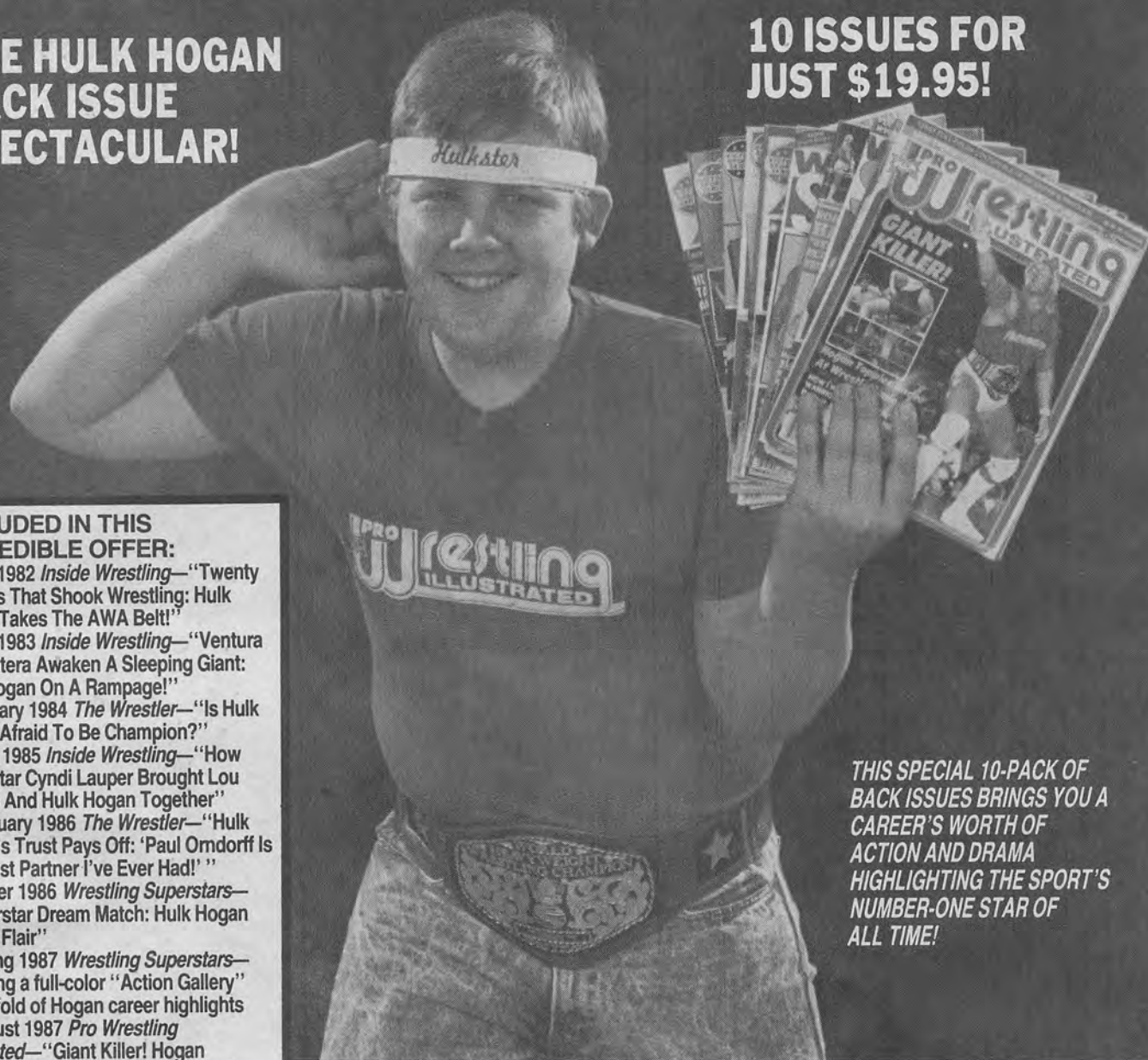
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TULSA, OK By Diane Seals



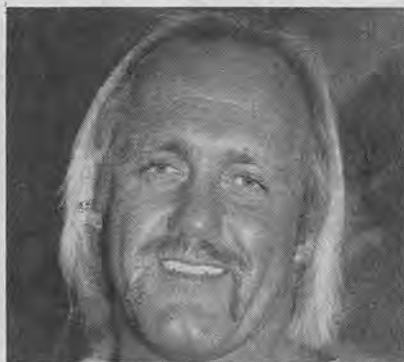
**MICHAEL HAYES
vs.
BUDDY ROBERTS**



In this coal miner's glove match, Hayes dominated most of the way by using the turnbuckles and ringposts as weapons against his former Freebird partner. After Hayes failed in several attempts to reach the glove (which was placed atop a 30-foot pole), Roberts gained the momentum with a series of eyegouges and slams. But his momentum was only temporary as Hayes DDT'd him and climbed the pole to grab the glove, which he used to knock out Roberts and get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Jimmy Jack Funk pinned Bob Bradley ... The Samoan SWAT Team defeated The Missing Link & Matt Borne ... Steve & Shaun Simpson beat John Tatum & Jack Victory ... Eric Embry defeated Steve Casey ... Kerry Von Erich beat Iceman Parsons by disqualification.

MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



**HULK HOGAN
vs.
ANDRE THE GIANT**



In the main event at WrestleFest, Andre and Hogan faced off in a steel cage match. Andre took the early lead by tying Hogan to the ropes with his T-shirt and assaulting him with punches and kicks. Andre tried to exit the cage through the door, but was stopped by a furious Hogan. They traded blows until Bobby Heenan entered the ring on behalf of Andre. Hogan smashed Heenan's head into the cage, struck Andre with a foreign object, and climbed over the cage for the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Randy Savage pinned Ted DiBiase ... Demolition beat The British Bulldogs ... Hacksaw Duggan beat The Honky Tonk Man by DQ ... Jake Roberts and Rick Rude were both counted out ... Ultimate Warrior pinned Bobby Heenan ... Brutus Beefcake pinned Hercules ... Bad News Brown pinned Bret Hart.

MIAMI, FL By Scott Foley



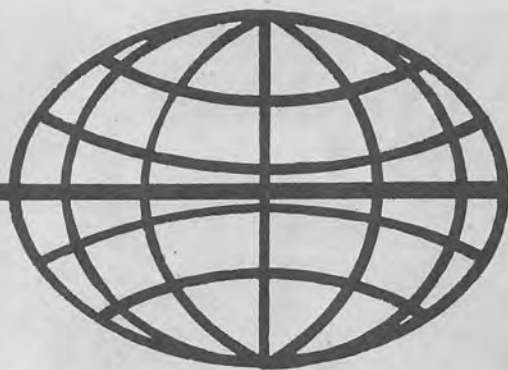
**JIM GARVIN
vs.
KEVIN SULLIVAN**



Garvin and Sullivan met in a taped-fist match that saw "The Gamesmaster" attack Garvin before the bell and hold the advantage for most of the match. The end came when Sullivan back-suplexed Garvin. With both men's shoulders on the mat, referee Tommy Young counted both down and said the first man up would win. Garvin was up first, but the ref was looking at Sullivan. Garvin fell down; while Young was looking at him, Mike Rotundo helped Sullivan get up and win.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors beat The Russian Assassin & Ivan Koloff ... Steve Williams & Sting defeated Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson by DQ ... Nikita Koloff beat Al Perez ... The Fantastics defeated The Midnight Express & Jim Cornette ... Mike Rotundo pinned Kendall Windham.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



TACOMA, WA

By Bill Pope



RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
TED DiBIASE



Savage put up the WWF World title in a no-DQ match. DiBiase jumped Savage as soon as he hit the ring and roughed him up a bit before throwing him out of the ring. The momentum switched back and forth until Virgil interfered. He held Savage while DiBiase bounced off the opposite ropes preparing to knee Savage in the back. But at the last moment Savage moved, causing DiBiase and Virgil to collide. Savage then caught DiBiase from behind and rolled him up for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Rude beat Jake Roberts by countout ... Ultimate Warrior pinned Hercules ... The British Bulldogs beat Smash & Mr. Fuji ... King Haku pinned Sam Houston ... Big Bossman destroyed Porkchop Cash ... Curt Hennig pinned Scott Casey.

TAMPA, FL

By Jon Radt



JERRY LAWLER
vs.
KERRY VON ERICH

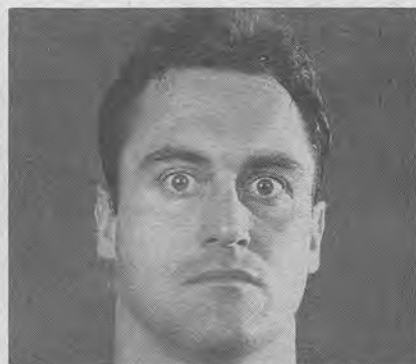


In the main event of an Eddie Graham Memorial card, AWA World champion Lawler took on World Class champ Von Erich in a unification match. After more than five minutes of exchanging holds and punches, Lawler left the ring. When he returned, he climbed on the middle rope to jump on Von Erich, but Kerry applied the iron claw. After breaking the hold, Lawler went to the top rope and came down with an elbowsmash. Lawler was immediately disqualified for jumping off the top rope.

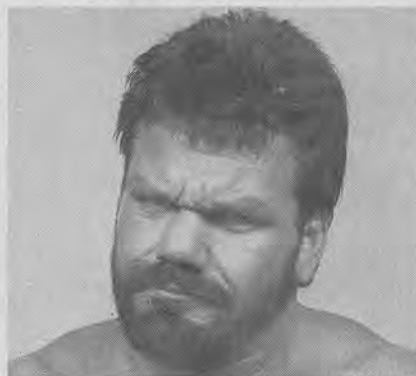
OTHER BOUTS: Mike Graham & Steve Keirn beat Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond by DQ ... Eric Embry pinned Lou Perez ... Dan Spivey beat Dick Slater ... Denny Brown pinned Frank Lancaster ... The Star Riders beat The Nasty Boys by DQ ... Scotty the Body drew with Rex King ... Johnny Ace pinned Lazor-Tron.

LANDOVER, MD

By Howard Feintuch



MIKE ROTUNDO
vs.
STEVE WILLIAMS

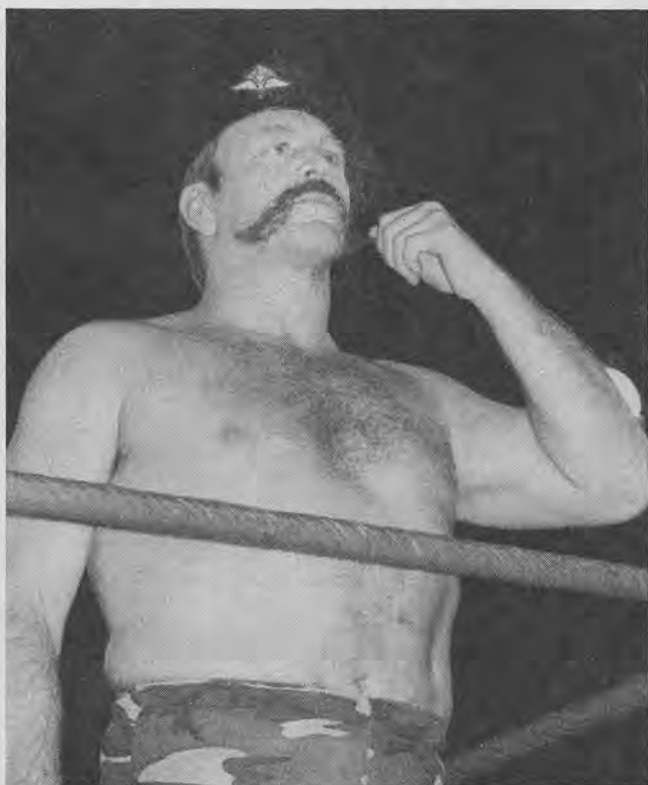


Rotundo tried to sucker Steve in at the start with a handshake, but "Dr. Death" floored him. They traded blows for several minutes, with Rotundo getting the worst of it. Late in the match, Williams executed a shoulderblock that sent Rotundo out of the ring. They proceeded to fight outside the ring and were both counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Ronnie Garvin beat Kendall Windham ... Tim Horner defeated Rick Steiner ... Dick Murdoch beat Rip Morgan ... The Russian Assassin defeated Mighty Wilbur ... Rick Morton & Brad Armstrong beat The Shepherders ... Bugsy McGraw drew with Larry Zbyszko ... Nikita Koloff beat Al Perez ... The Fantastics defeated The Midnight Express & Jim Cornette.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**



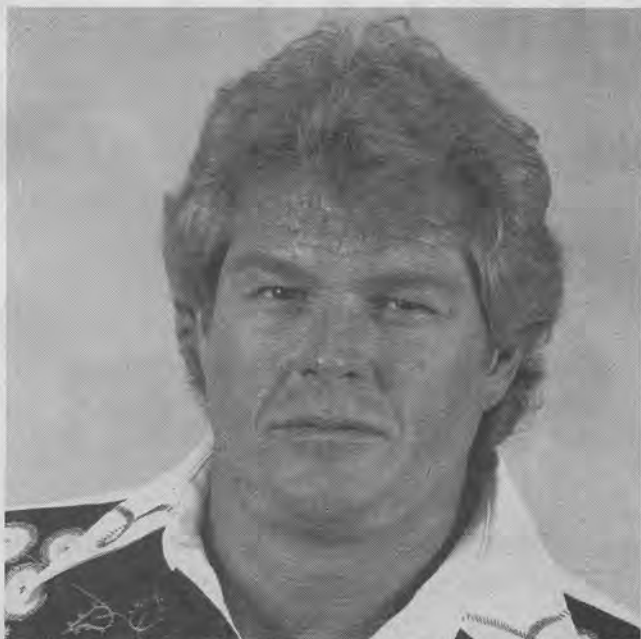
COL. DeBEERS

LAS VEGAS, NV: I just couldn't figure out why The Strip didn't look the same this time. Then I realized that it was just my usual Vegas disorientation due to the neon overdose of this desert discotheque. I've always enjoyed Vegas. The town is so intent on bringing in the big-time gamblers, they'll give away freebies on anything; the food is cheap, the lodgings are first rate, and if you stay at the Showboat Hotel, you even get treated to terrific AWA wrestling. That's perfect for me. I stopped gambling years ago, but I still enjoy a cheap steak, fine wine, and the AWA. On my most recent trip to the Showboat, I was witness to some great action and some disgusting developments. First the disgusting news: Col. DeBeers is back, thanks to Diamond

Dallas Page. After the AWA suspended DeBeers for nearly killing Jimmy Snuka last year, I thought wrestling would be free of the South African sadist forever. DeBeers is the racist pig who regularly referred to Snuka (a native of the Fiji Islands) as "a Negro," and was even banned from television for his despicable racial slurs. That crap has no place in wrestling—or anywhere in our country. If DeBeers wants to be a personal crusader for the morally abhorrent South African government, that's his choice, I guess, but his racist views are unwelcome in America. Thankfully, The Guerrero Brothers (Hector, Chavo, and Mando) beat DeBeers, Pat Tanaka, and Paul Diamond. When Hector pinned Diamond, he served notice that this time, DeBeers and his cronies will have to pay for their insults.

MEMPHIS, TN: I've enjoyed coming to Memphis for years. On this trip, however, I felt oddly uncomfortable. Just like DeBeers in the AWA, Robert Fuller, head of the CWA's Stud Stable, treats the ring as if it's a pulpit for expounding his demented racial views. The Stud Stable reminds me of the OPEC oil embargo of the mid-1970s. The departure of Lawler, Max Pain, and Eddie Gilbert has left a talent vacuum in the CWA, allowing Fuller's stable to virtually run the federation. And whether it's oil, nations, or wrestling talent, no one group should *ever* have total control. But Fuller does, and the way he chooses to exercise that control is disgusting. During a TV taping I witnessed down here, Fuller had the audacity to present a watermelon to Brickhouse Brown. Now, don't get me wrong, I think a fruit basket can be a great gift, but Fuller's "gift" was racially motivated. By playing off a racist stereotype that blacks like watermelon, Fuller sought confrontation with Brickhouse. And confrontation is what he got. It's a good thing I hung around the CWA for a little while longer. Not only did I get to

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



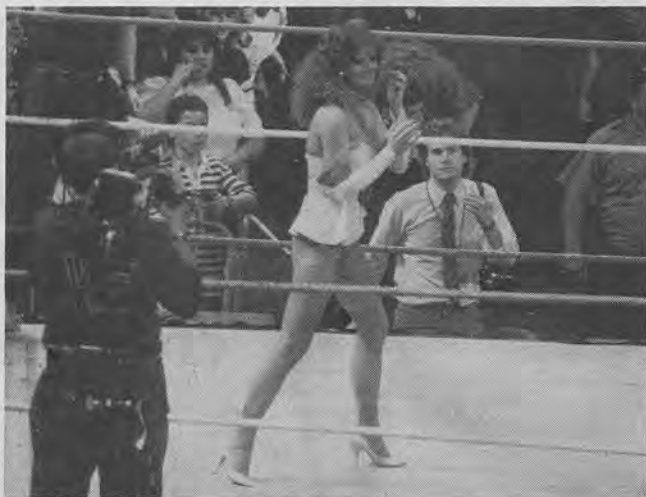
ROBERT FULLER

see some great matches between Lawler and Tommy Rich, but I also got to see Brickhouse Brown turn against Fuller. Believe me, I wasn't the only one heartened to see Brown stand up against Fuller's deplorable attitude.

SUMTER, SC: Jim Cornette called the other day and invited me to follow him around for a while. I met him in this historic city on my way back to New York. Down the highway from here, there's a place called Fort Sumter. The American Civil War started there, a war that engulfed the United States in the bloodiest four years in its entire history. I couldn't escape the feeling of irony at being in this flower of the old South, because right now a civil war of sorts is threatening to engulf the NWA. The Midnight Express may have blundered in challenging Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team belts. Why jeopardize the long-standing cooperation between the two rulebreaking teams? Besides, Bobby Eaton and Arn Anderson have been best friends for years. That all changed during an NWA TV taping down here. Cornette called me because he wanted to announce that wrestling for the World tag team belts was not enough for his

Express; now Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane want to wrestle Ric Flair for the NWA World title. As usual, the Horsemen's ring of protection tightened. While Lane wrestled a singles match, the Horsemen bloodied Eaton in a vicious locker room attack. Is it any wonder why the fans are beginning to support the Midnights in the series with Tully and Arn? In beating Eaton, Anderson has shown a lack of loyalty unseen in even the most traitorous spy. Even from a slime like him it disgusts me.

NEW YORK, NY: Finally, some logic to my itinerary. Usually they send me to New York, then to Japan, and then all the way back to Chicago. But there's nothing better when all the points on my wrestling map actually make a straight line back home. This time, though, home wasn't all that



ELIZABETH

sweet. I had looked forward to an exciting night of wrestling at the WWF's SummerSlam '88. What I got instead was nothing more than a pathetic burlesque as Elizabeth did a strip show. If I wanted to see scantily clad women parading around while pathetic excuses for men lose control of their salivary glands, I could've stayed in Vegas! It's that Vegas atmosphere that Vince McMahon encourages. His twisted vision has not moved wrestling forward. Sports entertainment? Unfortunately, McMahon's wrestling bares little resemblance to the sport I love. And it's certainly not entertainment. □

Wrestler

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The "Superstars Of A Super Summer" special issue of *The Wrestler* is cover-dated December 1988 and is on sale now! This one is sure to be a sellout, so get to your newsstand early!

Continental Catfight!

Photos by Len McAlister



Bambi, Tom Prichard's second, shoves Lady Mystic, valet to Tony Anthony. This war of the women is overshadowing the feud between their men!

BAMBI & LADY MYSTIC'S DIRTY WHITE WAR

It started out as a feud between Tom Prichard and "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, but Anthony's valet, Lady Mystic, couldn't keep herself from getting involved. Now Bambi, Prichard's second, is battling Mystic—and the results are some of the wildest matches imaginable!

THE RAW HATRED between Tom Prichard and Tony Anthony escalates with each passing day. Other feuds in the Continental Wrestling Federation have come and gone, but these two young grapplers continue to stain canvases with their sweat and blood. It is a rivalry that is only gaining momentum.

Indeed, it has gained so much momentum that two more individuals have become involved in the conflict.

And while they are not nearly the size of their male counterparts, the war between Anthony's valet, Lady Mystic, and Prichard's second, Bambi, has reached similar heights of violence. In fact, the clashes between the men have actually been overshadowed by the fury that exists between these women!

These matches have become so intense that many fans are lusting after the opportunity to see these two wildcats tangle *without* the men around. In

the times they *have* met, there has been enough hair pulling, clothes tearing, and eye scratching to make nervous mothers cover up the eyes of their impressionable children. Mystic and Bambi hated each other from the moment they set eyes on one another, and they certainly haven't been afraid to tangle.

"Mystic thinks she's hot stuff, doesn't she?" complained Bambi, a Georgia-bred female wrestler. "Well,

she's not. It take more than standing there in a G-string and holding a whip to make in pro wrestling. She looks like a harlot! That's not good for the sport. Believe me, I'm gonna be the one to put that cat-o'-nine-tails where the sun don't shine."

"Cow-milking trash, pure and simple," responded Mystic. "She just *wishes* she could afford my designer outfits, but even if she could, she's still look awful. That tomboy's got no business getting involved in my man's matches. We're gonna string her up, just like we did to that wimp Prichard."

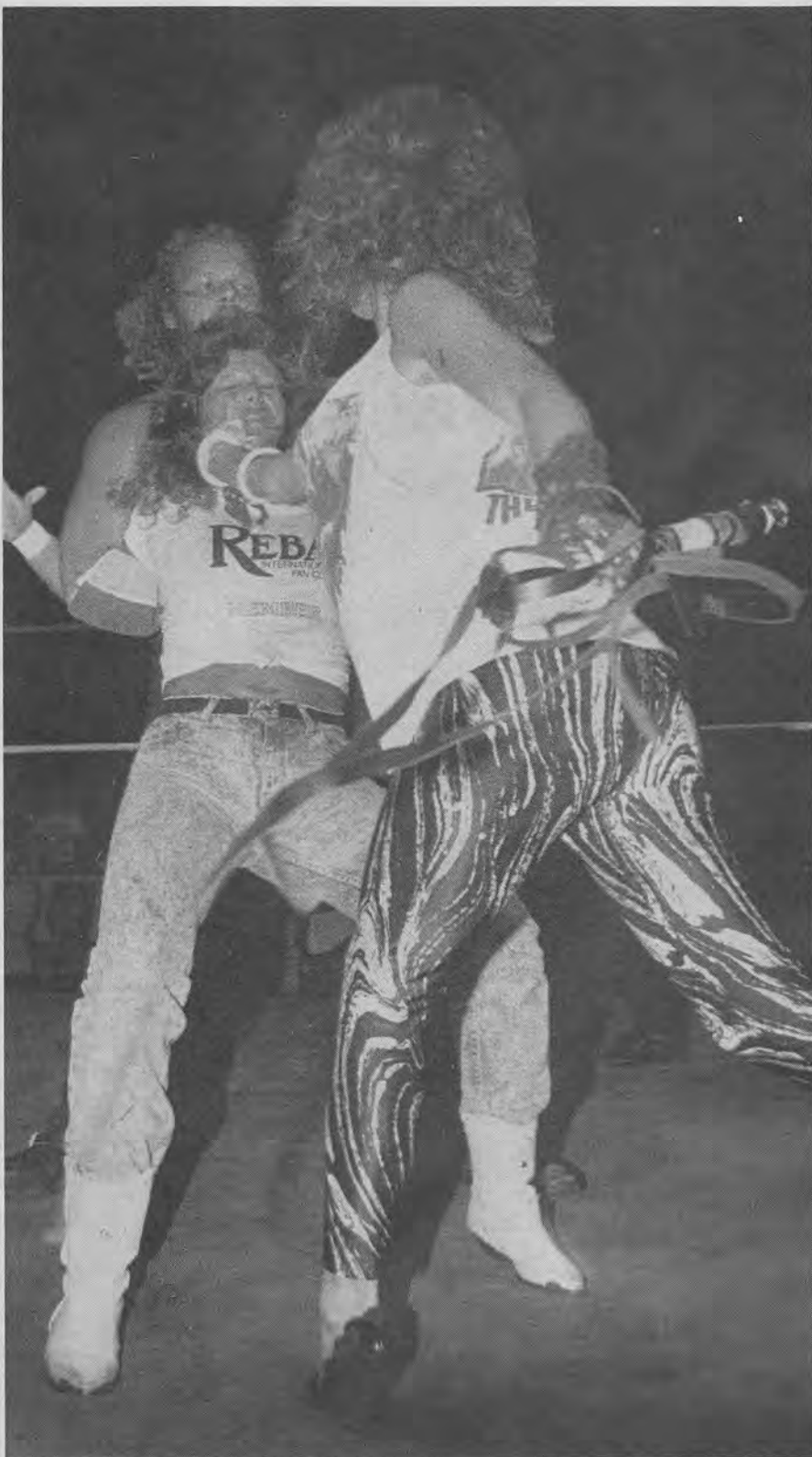
This shocking situation began with a simple match between Anthony and Prichard in February, which soon escalated into one of the hottest feuds of the year. As with Bambi and Mystic, Pritchard and Anthony instantly despised each other, and they battled throughout the CWF in search of the now-defunct Alabama title.

The feud raged on even after the title was dropped by the CWF. In April, the cunning Anthony decided to unveil his "secret weapon."

"That's me," boasts the stunning Mystic, also known as Dirty White Girl. "Now I can keep that fool Prichard from cheating in my man's matches. Nothing can stop the Dirty White Boy from becoming Continental champion, *especially* Prichard. He's nothing but swamp scum."

Mystic's comments stunned CWF fans, but this was one beauty who could do more than just talk. She continually distracted referees during matches between Anthony and Prichard, but her meddling didn't stop there. Mystic is one of the few valets in wrestling who has the courage to *physically* interfere in matches, and she began doing it with alarming regularity.

Prichard became the victim of several vicious attacks. Following one match, Mystic jumped on Anthony's back, allowing Anthony to beat him unconscious. Afterwards, Mystic spray-painted a yellow streak down his back. In another incident, Mystic kayoed Prichard with a cloth doused in ether, gaining



Lady Mystic slaps Bambi across the face as Tony Anthony holds her back. The war between Mystic and Bambi began when Mystic started interfering in matches between Tony Anthony and Tom Prichard. When Prichard wanted to even the odds, he called Bambi.

Anthony an unearned victory.

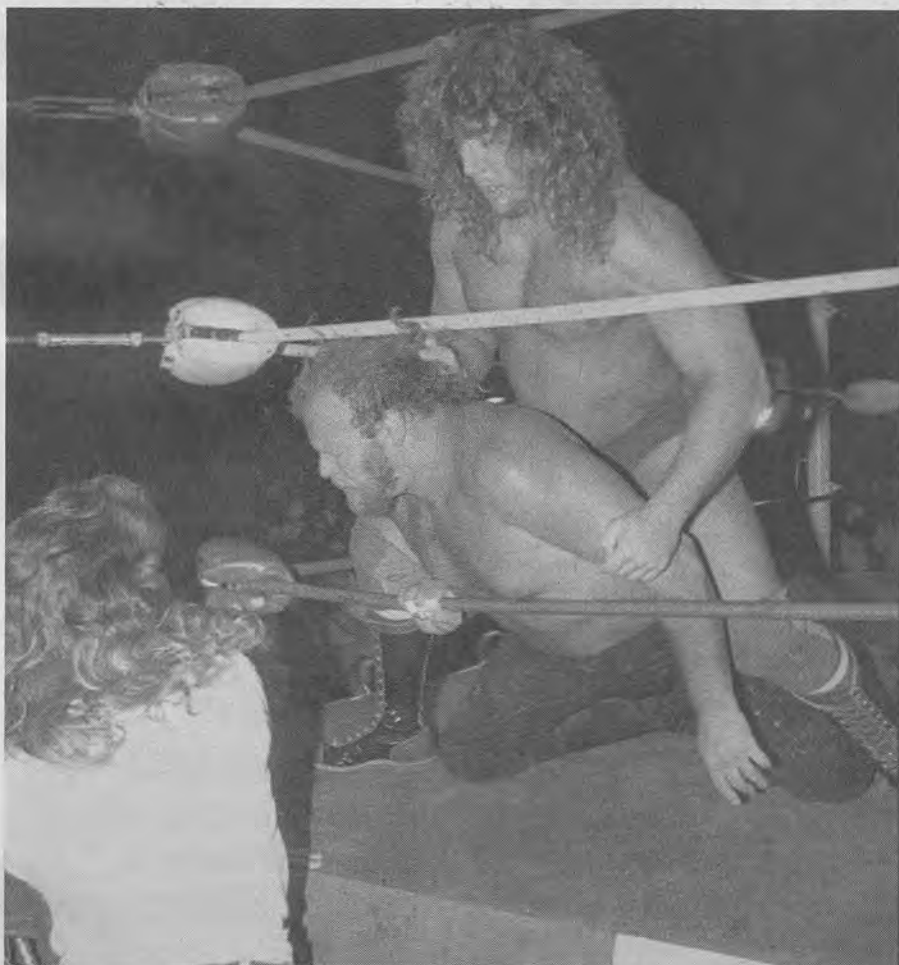
The worst offense made by the brunette valet was when she showed up during a television interview with what appeared to be a nasty eye bruise. She begged to speak with Prichard, claiming that Anthony has abused her. When the

young Texan appeared, Anthony attacked and hung Prichard from the ring with a noose. Mystic laughed and wiped the charcoal "bruise" from her face. After that, Prichard decided to contact an old friend.

"Now, the sides are *even*," boasted



Bambi hangs Mystic over the ropes (above). Prichard holds Anthony for a slap in the face from Bambi (below). Soon, even Missy Hyatt may be dragged into the Bambi-Mystic feud!



Bambi, who came to Alabama the day after she received Prichard's telephone call. "Mystic is the worst thing ever to happen to Continental. Whenever that hussy decides to stick her nose in Tom's business, I'll be there to slap it right off her spoiled little face."

In match after match, Mystic's attempts at interference were thwarted by Bambi. At first, the women simply called each other names, but it didn't take long before the two were rolling around the mat, screaming and trying to pull each other's hair out.

"That little piece of Georgia trash," complained Mystic, wiping the sweat from her brow after being run from ringside by Bambi. "That skank prevented my man from getting a clean win tonight. I'll drive that ugly sow out of wrestling for good."

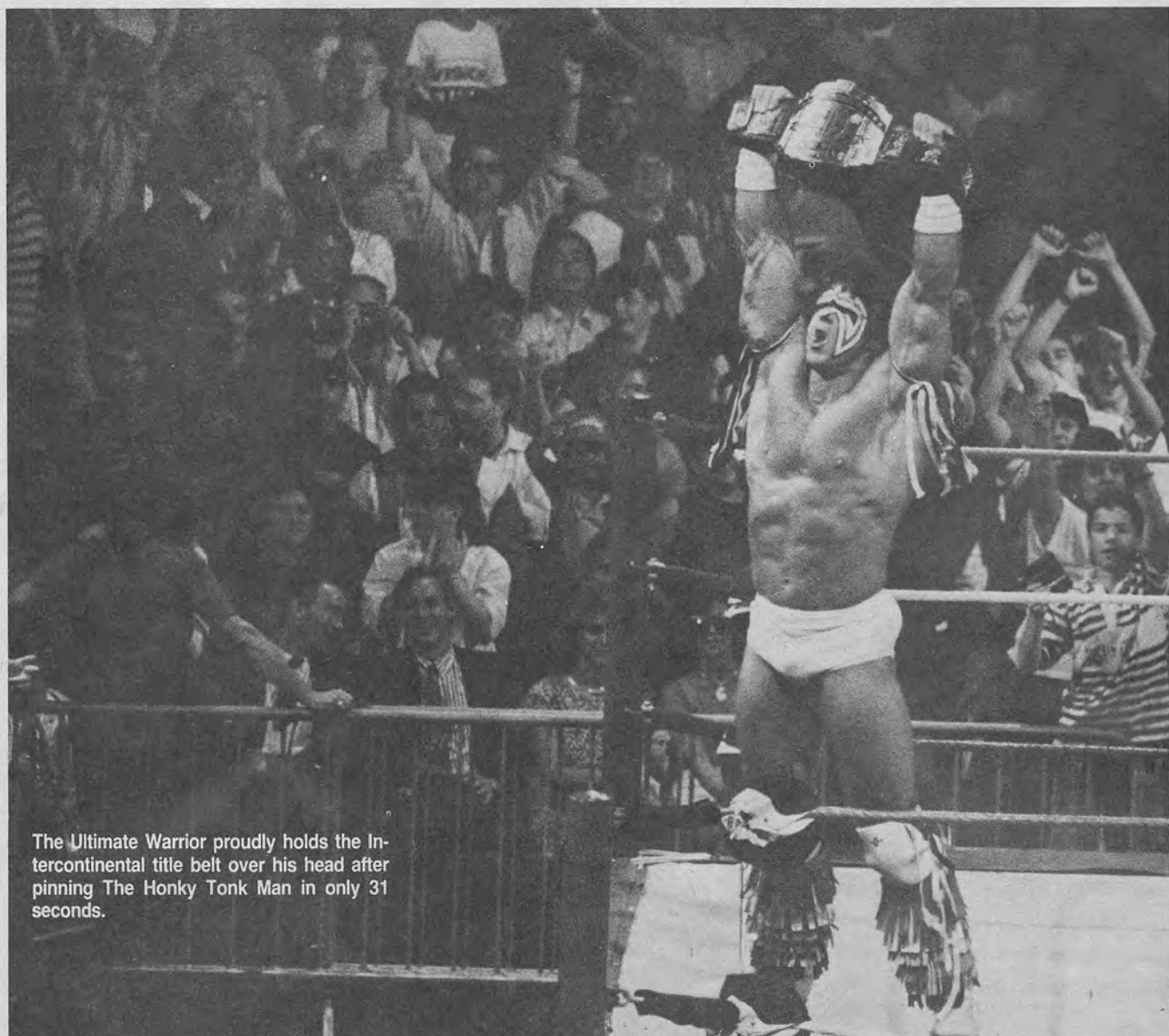
The feud reached epic proportions during an August match in Birmingham, Alabama. Anthony rendered Prichard helpless outside the ring, then held Bambi's arms while Mystic slapped her and spit into her face. Luckily, Prichard recovered, pummeled Anthony, and enabled Bambi to get her revenge by tackling the valet and beating her all over the mat.

"Worthless little leech," Bambi complained from her dressing room. "If it's a war she wants, it's a war she's gonna get. I'm challenging her to a one-on-one match, but I doubt she'll accept it. She's just a conniving little tramp."

To this day, the battles between Prichard and Anthony—and Bambi and Lady Mystic—continue to roar throughout the CWF. On the occasions when Bambi is called away by wrestling commitments, Missy Hyatt has taken her place at ringside. So it now appears a major feud between Mystic and Hyatt is about to begin as well!

It's often been said that women are the weaker sex, but anyone who has seen Mystic and Bambi viciously attack each other knows that expression is a lie. And with Hyatt involved, it's likely the Prichard-Anthony feud—even after all these months—may have only just begun! □

ULTIMATE WARRIOR: HONKY TONK MAN'S LIVING NIGHTMARE!



The Ultimate Warrior proudly holds the Intercontinental title belt over his head after pinning The Honky Tonk Man in only 31 seconds.

In half a minute, the lengthiest WWF Intercontinental title reign was over. The Ultimate Warrior's assault on The Honky Tonk Man was an awesome moment in wrestling history—and the realization of Honky Tonk's most frightening nightmare!

IT REVIVED MEMORIES—dare we say?—of Bruno Sammartino's historic 48-second WWF title assault on Buddy Rogers 25 years ago. It took Ultimate Warrior a barely believable 31 seconds to defeat The Honky Tonk Man and become the WWF's new Intercontinental champion. Honky Tonk's record 14-month-plus title reign became a forgotten relic while most fans were still cheering the Warrior's ring entrance.

The match was initially scheduled to pit Honky Tonk against Brutus Beefcake, but Ron Bass cur-

tailed Beefcake's in-ring activity for at least a month when he repeatedly raked "The Barber's" scalp with razor-sharp boot spurs on a card in Wheeling, West Virginia. Left without anyone to wrestle, Honky Tonk addressed Gene Okerlund and a national pay-per-view TV audience with characteristic bravura and demanded an opponent be found immediately.

"I don't care who I wrestle as long as you get someone in the ring," Honky Tonk chortled.

The strategy had already backfired once on the brash champion.

Weeks earlier, at a WWF TV taping in Providence, Rhode Island, Honky Tonk had made a public declaration during which he boasted of his invincibility and defied any wrestler to step into the ring and try to best him. No sooner did he put down the microphone than Ultimate Warrior stormed the ring and attacked him.

In a grim foreshadowing of SummerSlam '88, Warrior tossed Honky Tonk about the ring with little regard for the champion's self-styled reputation or his record-length title reign. Mixing brutal forearm smashes and punches with a devastating series of clotheslines, Warrior downed Honky Tonk and pinned him in center ring. The referee awarded Ultimate Warrior the belt and, in his regularly scheduled match that night, he was announced as the new Intercontinental champion. Although the decision was later reversed (because the title match was not a sanctioned), the result left few doubts of the seriousness of Warrior's challenge.

Back at Madison Square Garden and SummerSlam, even fans long-

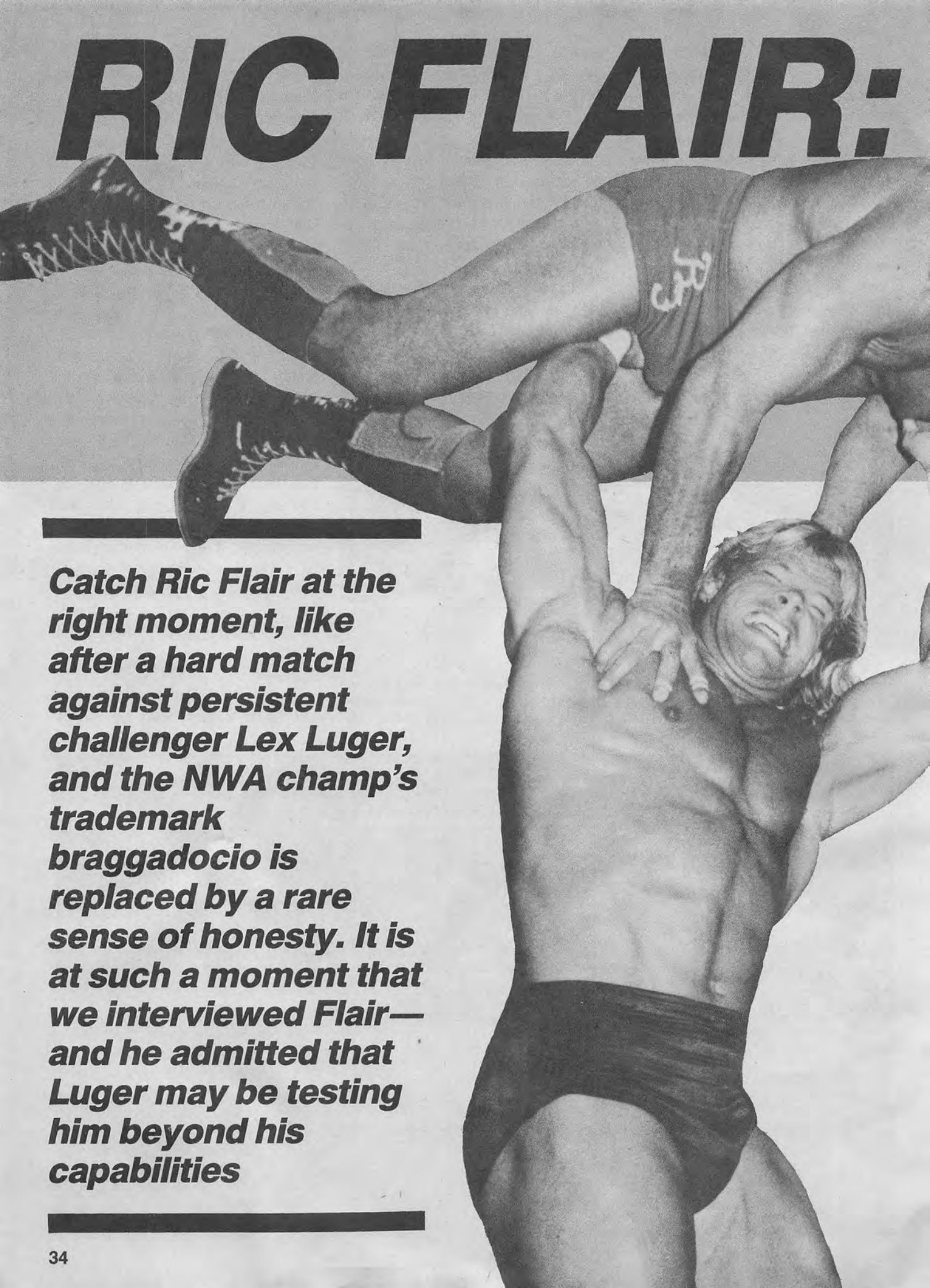
(Continued on page 54)



The Warrior slams Honky Tonk, who didn't even have a chance to take off his ring attire (above). As Honky Tonk writhes in pain, the Warrior celebrates his victory (below). The Warrior was a last-minute substitute for Brutus Beefcake.



RIC FLAIR:



Catch Ric Flair at the right moment, like after a hard match against persistent challenger Lex Luger, and the NWA champ's trademark braggadocio is replaced by a rare sense of honesty. It is at such a moment that we interviewed Flair—and he admitted that Luger may be testing him beyond his capabilities

"LEX LUGER IS WEARING ME DOWN!"

Photos by Apter & Eddie Cheslock

EVERYBODY HAS THEIR private moments, when integrity overpowers image and honesty nudges aside bravado. Even NWA World champion Ric Flair.

Although he carries himself around the ring more like a king than a mere mortal, Flair has the same self-doubts that plague everyone. And in those private moments, he even questions his own ability to compete as NWA World champion.

One of those moments occurred in Atlanta, shortly after he narrowly survived a challenge by top contender Lex Luger. The sweat that poured down his face gave Flair a reason for reflection. The champ had reason to be honest.

"Man, I'm really exhausted," Flair said with a humility only seen by those close to The Four Horsemen . . . and even then, only rarely. "Luger is really wearing me down."

"You've got to remember, I'm a lot older than he is," the champion continued. "When I was *his* age, I was stronger and could wrestle for an hour if I had to without breaking sweat. When I won the title for the first time back in 1981, I took more punishment defending it than I have in any of my other four reigns. In fact, I used to get right up and come back for more.



Lex Luger presses NWA World champion Ric Flair over his head (opposite page). Luger crotches Flair on the ringpost (above). The World champion himself reluctantly admits that "The Total Package" has been sapping his strength.

Now, who *knows* what will happen?"

The champion mumbled the last sentence to himself. A short silence followed. Then, just as quickly as it had begun, the rare moment of candor had passed. Ric Flair reverted to his usual egomania.

"But remember, I'm still champion," he said, eyes opening ever wider. "And whether you like it, or whether you don't like it, no one is going to take this belt away from me. I'll *always* hold on to these 10 pounds of gold!"

"Luger can follow me around the

country, around the world, or even around the universe," Flair continued, "but he will never get this belt around his waist! I've faced challengers during my illustrious career who could kill Lex Luger even before the ring introductions, so I'm not about to worry about him now. I will always be champion, and Luger, my friend, you are history! Now, let's get the hell out of here and start partying! *Woowooooo!*"

The exhaustion had also left Flair's face. Gone too were the self-doubts
(Continued on page 58)

THE POWERS OF PAIN: WHO THEY ARE AND WHY YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM



WWF newcomers Warlord and Barbarian have traditionally been a rulebreaking team, but they're seeking to change that view.

TWO GREAT HEROES of the WWF today are outcasts from the NWA. Those heroes, The Powers of Pain—Warlord and Barbarian—left their federation amidst charges of cowardice. But they are received as demigods by those who want Demolition demolished. Warlord and Barbarian both know what it means to be on the fans' good side, and they're using that connection to achieve success.

The Barbarian entered the pro ranks in 1983 as King Konga. He allegedly was a member of the same Chicago street gang as The Road Warriors, who supposedly had something to do with him being kicked out. He was training in a gym when Ronnie Garvin asked him to spar a couple of rounds of boxing.

At first, Garvin says, the big man wouldn't talk, but Garvin eventually earned his trust and encouraged him to get into wrestling. He was anxious to start in Georgia, where the Warriors were dominating all competition. "He wanted to rip the Warriors apart," Garvin recalled. "Remember, that was a time when the Warriors were like supermen. Nobody wanted a piece of them."

They're WWF fan favorites today, but The Powers of Pain have spent most of their careers as despised rulebreakers. If their pasts are any indication, Warlord and Barbarian have a lot of explaining to do before they earn anyone's trust

Although he didn't accomplish his goal of driving the Warriors out of Georgia, The Barbarian was winning the war of respect. This mountain of muscle and intensity (6'5", 295 pounds) won the majority of his matches with sheer power. At the time, it was all he needed.

To add some shape to his career, Barbarian went back to his mean roots and chose Paul Jones as his manager. Jones is an evil genius who craves wrestlers with size and power above all else. "Jones knew



Ronnie Garvin discusses strategy with King Konga (above); Warlord headlocks the Barbarian during their feud (left); Barbarian slams Carlos Colon (below).

exactly what he wanted when he chose Barbarian," Garvin said. "He is a firm believer that size conquers all."

Occasionally, Jones would take Barbarian to Puerto Rico, where he feuded with that island nation's favorite son, WWC superstar Carlos Colon. In Jones' plan, Barbarian would bring him back the prestige that he lost after being repeatedly humiliated by Jimmy Valiant in 1985 and '86.

Meanwhile, The Warlord was beginning a pro career of his own. Also a product of Chicago, Warlord was discovered by Baby Doll, former valet to Tully Blanchard and Dusty Rhodes. At first, Warlord was a powerful but lumbering giant (6'5", 360 pounds), unsure of his ac-

(Continued on page 62)



HOTSEAT

RODDY PIPER

"WRESTLING IS WHAT I KNOW BEST—BUT I'M NOT COMING BACK!"

FEW WRESTLERS HAVE caused as much excitement during their careers as "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. Despised by some and loved by others, the outspoken Scotsman was the focal point of a host of controversies and feuds throughout his 14-year career.

During his WWF tenure, Piper engaged in a host of classic battles, including the main event at *WrestleMania I* on March 31, 1985, at New York's Madison Square Garden. He teamed with Paul Orndorff against Hulk Hogan and actor Mr. T in one of the most publicized matches in wrestling history.

But Piper is perhaps best remembered for "Piper's Pit," his raucous interview segment during WWF broadcasts. His irreverent style enraged fans, few of whom ever missed a segment! And when Adrian Adonis attempted to take over Piper's time, it led to a savage feud—and to Piper being cheered by WWF fans for the first time.

Piper stunned the wrestling world by announcing he would retire after his match against Adonis at *WrestleMania III*; he has not wrestled since that day. Meanwhile, the rumor mill insists that Piper is readying himself for a return

to the ring.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith caught up with Piper at his home in Portland, Oregon, where the former U.S. and Mid-Atlantic champion discussed his role in director John Carpenter's science-fiction film *They Live*, scheduled

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I never told the fans to take their vitamins and say their prayers. They cheered me because they wanted to, not because they were programmed to.

”

to open in theaters across the country on October 28. They also talked about Piper's future—which apparently does not include professional wrestling.

Q: Roddy, we saw your recent appearance on *Entertainment Tonight* concerning the unfortunate death of Bruiser Brody.

A: It was very unfortunate. We lost Brody and we lost Adrian Adonis. You know, something happens when you wrestle someone; you develop sort of a mutual respect, so to speak. It's always sad to lose an opponent; it's almost as bad as losing a friend.

Q: Your interview also included a short clip of you with director John Carpenter, and I understand that your new film is about to be released.

A: Well, we've done a movie called *They Live*. Carpenter was at ring-side for *WrestleMania III*, and he told me he was a big fan of mine. He told me that there weren't any leading men in Hollywood anymore, and said they were looking for somebody who looked like he had "been around" a little bit. One thing led to another, and before you knew it we were writing a script together.

Q: What is the movie about?

A: It's a science-fiction film, but it's much more than that, really. My character is called John Nada, a member of the working homeless who bounces around on the railroads. You know, there are actual-





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I was the kind of guy who could walk right into the ring and back up everything I said.

”

ly people like this in America, who move from town to town looking for work. This movie is trying to make a point about the homeless in our country, who are in a situation which gets worse every day. All the ghouls and monsters in this movie wear Rolex watches and drive BMWs—just like the real-life ones! We're trying to have the premiere at a drive-in, and hopefully we can have some of the homeless there so we can bring some attention to them.

Q: Are you enjoying your acting career?

A: Yeah. I like being creative. But one of the bad things about being creative is that you can't improvise all the time, like I did on the old "Piper's Pit" show. But I'm getting used to it. Overall, it's not easy, but I'm givin' 'em hell. You know I *never* give up without a fight.

Q: A lot of fans were very surprised when you gave up wrestling, and you haven't set foot in a pro ring



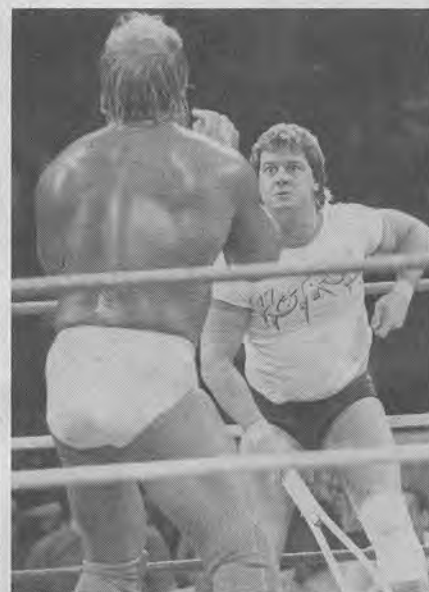
since WrestleMania III. Have you ever regretted your decision to leave the sport?

A: Well, my retirement wasn't a Mike Tyson retirement—I didn't retire for 28 days and come back. I was *serious* when I retired, and I guess not many folks retire while they're at their peak. You know, I love wrestling, and that's my problem—I can't watch it on TV, because it gets my blood boiling, and it gets me wanting to go back. Wrestling is what I know best. I do regret my decision to leave sometimes, because I live and breathe wrestling. I love wrestlers, all of 'em, and I've always said that anybody who's got enough guts to wrestle is all right in my book. But I'm not coming back, because I'm pursuing my movie career real hard. If I did come back, it would be to wrestle for a world title.

Q: The WWF interview segments haven't been the same since you left. Your spot has been filled by a man named Brother Love in recent weeks.

A: Well, I don't catch the shows much anymore, but I've heard about this Brother Love fellow. I think that a lot of people would take offense to that. A lot of kids watch those shows, and I know I

Jimmy Hart, Bob Orton, and Adrian Adonis (above) team up against Piper for a "Piper's Pit" taping. Piper comes to the aid of Hulk Hogan after "The Hulkster's" match with Paul Orndorff (below).



wouldn't want my own kids to see that. I don't think it's good for wrestling; it doesn't do anything for the sport. When I did the "Pit," at least you had a world-class wrestler talking about wrestling. I don't think this Southern preacher stuff does our sport any good at all.

Q: Your early segments on "Piper's Pit" were pretty controversial, though. You beat the packings out

of preliminary wrestler Frank Williams on one segment, and later you humiliated Jimmy Snuka when you attacked him with a coconut.

A: Yeah, I did do those things, but I was the kind of a guy who could walk right into the ring and back up everything I said. There's a big difference there. I think the people hated me for a while, but after a while they realized that I backed up all my controversial comments with my ability. And I never lied to anybody.

Q: The fans changed their tune—a real shock—when you returned

thought it was pretty cool, man.

Q: Many fans are wondering if they'll ever see you in the ring again. The rumors of Roddy Piper coming out of retirement are the hottest thing going. Will we ever see you wrestle again?

A: I've heard the rumors, too. People say I'm going to do a whole lot of things, but in reality I've been busy with acting classes. I've always had a yearning to come back, but it's not going to happen. I'm pursuing my new career to the best of my ability, and that's what I'm concentrating on.



Piper (above left) stars in John Carpenter's *They Live*, a science-fiction film about the homeless. The film also stars Keith Davis (above right).



from a short hiatus and feuded with Adrian Adonis.

A: It was nice, mainly because I never really gave people any reason to cheer me, really. You know, I had a funny relationship with the fans. I usually don't let cheers affect me, but when I was going to the ring at *WrestleMania III* in the Silverdome, it was so loud that it overtook so much of what went on that night. They were taking people to the ring in a little cart, and I thought that I should be able to make it to the ring on my own, so I just ran to the ring, and the fans just came unglued. It was a pleasant surprise, because I never told the fans to take their vitamins and say their prayers. They cheered me because they *wanted* to, not because they were *programmed* to. It was the highest compliment, and I

Q: I'm sure you've kept up with wrestling since you left, and I was wondering if we could get your impressions on some of the men who are at the top today.

A: Sure! I always like to talk about wrestling. Fire away!

Q: What do you think of Randy Savage, the current WWF champion?

A: Well, he won the tourney at *WrestleMania IV*, but the only reason he won the title is because I wasn't there. I beat Savage a couple of times right before I left! If I had been there, and Hogan and Andre got disqualified, I don't think there'd be any doubt about who the next champion would've been.

Q: How about Hulk Hogan? I understand he's done some acting in recent months, too.

A: As usual, he's following my path. He never could think on his own



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It's been really hard for me to adapt to Hollywood because we come from two totally different backgrounds.

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(laughs). You know, after we had our battles, he went to the promotion and he told them that he never wanted to fight me again. He's still around, but there's not a lot to him, really. How many times can you hear that 'hangin' and bangin'' rap of his? It's getting pretty old, isn't it? He isn't doing anything but talking, but you have to be able to back it up.

Q: What are your feelings about Ric Flair, the NWA World champion?

A: I don't think that Flair needs to be one of The Four Horsemen. Flair has enough charisma—and he's an exceptionally good wrestler—and I think it's an insult to have him as a Horseman. I don't know what Flair's thinking about, but he's better than the rest of them put together. He's a better man than that.

Q: How about Jim Cornette, the man who many people feel succeeded Roddy Piper as the best talker in the sport?

(Continued on page 57)

KEVIN VON ERICH

THERE ARE THOSE in wrestling who claim that World Class Championship Wrestling is the exclusive property of the Von Erich family. They claim that the Von Erichs receive priority treatment from the referees and benefit from every WCCW decision. "You can't win when you wrestle a Von Erich in Texas," is the prevailing attitude.

To those people, Kevin Von Erich has one answer:

There's been no home-court advantage for Kevin Von Erich in Texas, where a pair of unusual decisions by World Class officials have cost him the WCCW heavyweight and Texas titles over the past year. Now Kevin is wondering what he must do to keep this from happening again

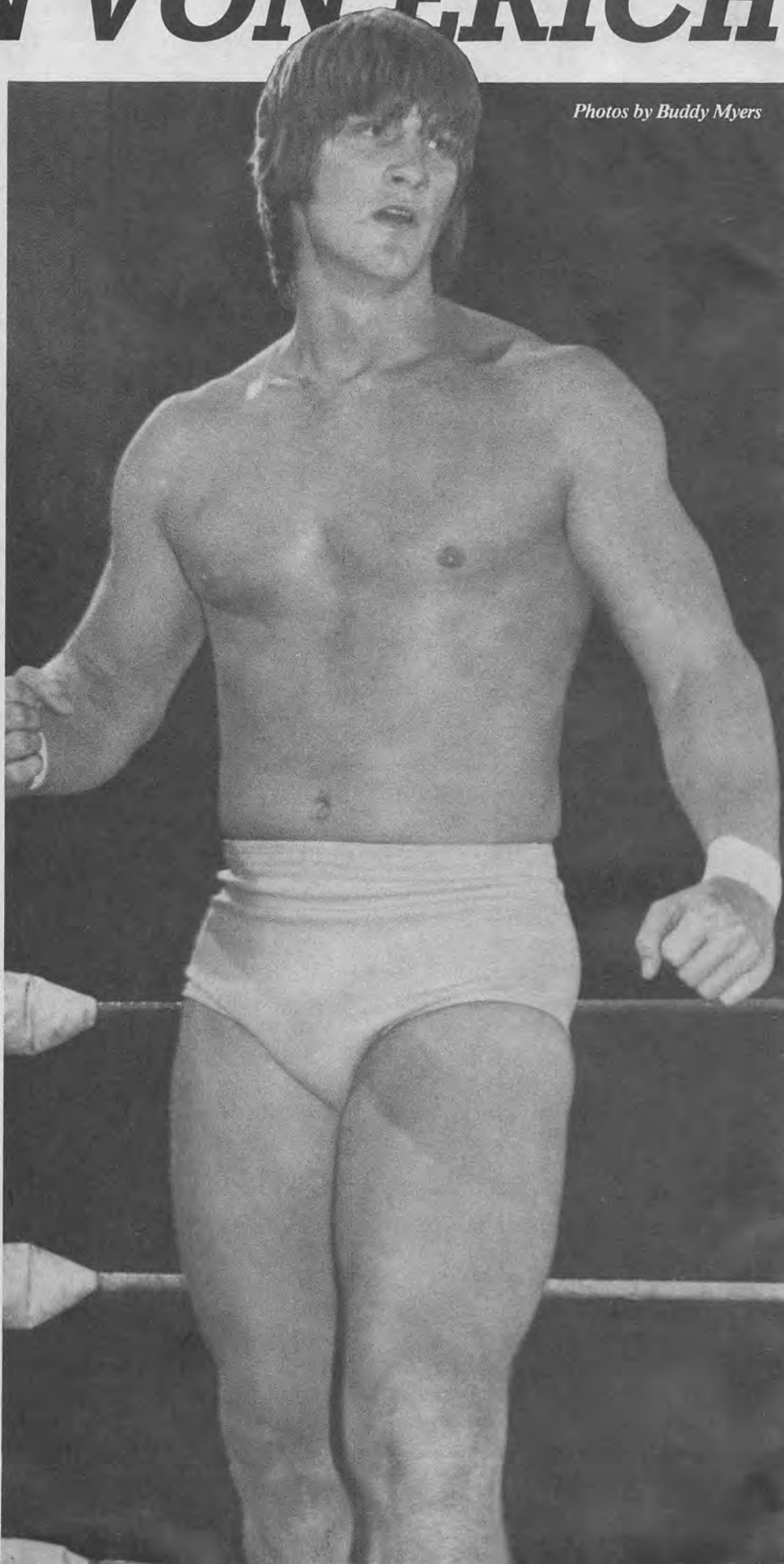
"Bull!

"If anything, the referees and officials down here are sensitive to criticism and go out of their way to be especially harsh on me and Kerry, and that's not fair, either," Kevin claims. "I've never asked for special treatment from anybody. On the other hand, I want to be treated fairly. The way I see it, that's just not happening."

Kevin is referring to two situations that have cost him titles over the past year.

On August 21, 1987, Kevin was

Photos by Buddy Myers



VS. THE SYSTEM—

scheduled to defend the World Class heavyweight belt against Al Perez in Dallas. But four days earlier in Ft. Worth, Kevin was injured by Brian Adias' "oriental tool," a vicious thumb-spike to the throat. Although the ringside doctor who examined Kevin after the match said there was no reason he shouldn't have been able to wrestle, the WCCW medical advisory board later ordered Kevin to take seven days off because of his physical condition.

This decision forced Kevin to miss his match against Perez. But instead of allowing Kevin to cancel the match, World Class officials made him forfeit the match and the title. "I didn't like it, especially after the doctor gave me a clean bill of health, but I couldn't do anything about it," Kevin said later.

The second incident occurred on August 5, 1988, in Dallas. Kevin, the World Class Texas champion, had injured his right big toe 10 days earlier during a match against Kamala. Kevin, however, had already signed for a title match against Iceman Parsons. In keeping with their August 1987 decision, World Class officials should have forced Kevin to forfeit the match and the title. But instead they allowed him to choose a substitute.

Not surprisingly, Kevin chose his brother, World Class champion Kerry Von Erich. Kerry wrestled valiantly, but couldn't overcome the outside interference of Parsons' manager, Gen. Skandor Akbar. When referee Bronco Lubich was knocked out, Akbar climbed



Kerry Von Erich clotheslines Iceman Parsons (above) and continues to dominate Parsons both inside the ring (below left) and outside the ring (below right). Later, with referee Bronco Lubich knocked out, Gen. Skandor Akbar used a foreign object to give Parsons the pin. Kerry had been wrestling as a substitute for his injured brother, Kevin. The loss ended Kevin's Texas title reign.



A LOSING BATTLE

on the ring apron and hit Kerry with a foreign object. Lubich recovered as Parsons pinned Kerry and won the belt. Kevin had hoped to be at ringside for the match, but the WCCW, stating that "if Von Erich was healthy enough to be at ringside, he was healthy enough to wrestle," denied him permission.

"That's twice in a year that I've lost my belts without even stepping into the ring," Kevin complained. "The rules make no sense. When a boxer is injured before a title fight, the fight is just cancelled. They don't make him forfeit his title—or find a substitute, which is even *more* ridiculous! How can Kerry defend my title? He's a great wrestler and I love him, but he just can't feel the same passion for the belt that I do.

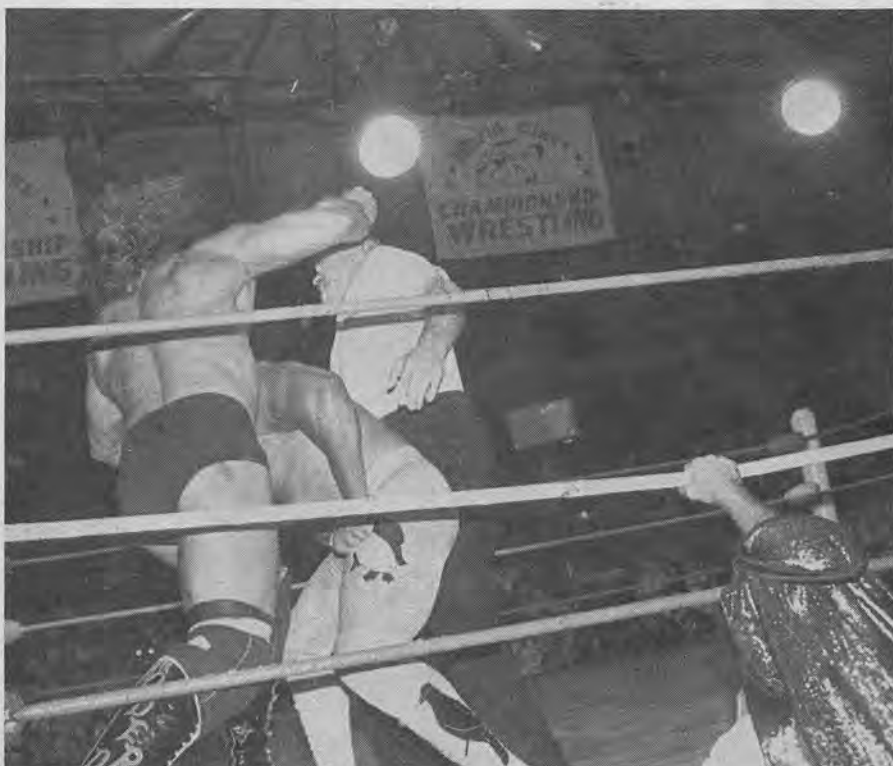
"Besides, what's the 30-day rule for?" Kevin added. "The way I read it, a champion must defend his belt against a viable challenger once every 30 days. I had wrestled Adias just four days before they made me forfeit the heavy-weight belt, and I wrestled Kamala about a week before they made me find a substitute in the Texas title match! The way I see it, I had the option of missing those matches."

World Class broadcaster Mark Lowrance, who witnessed both incidents, says that Kevin is mistaken.

"The situation changed once Kevin signed to wrestle those two title matches," Lowrance said. "The 30-day rule only applies if a match hasn't been signed yet. Once a match is signed it must be wrestled, or else the match is forfeited. World Class, however, gives an injured wrestler the option of finding a substitute."

But Kevin claims he was never given the chance to find a substitute when he was stripped of the WCCW heavyweight title.

"If the rule was in place back then, why wasn't it applied?"



Kerry's right cross (above) misses Parsons and knocks out referee Bronco Lubich. In Lubich's absence, Akbar (right) hits Kerry with a foreign object. After the match, a dazed Kerry can't believe the result (below).



Kevin asked. "Of course, my brother wasn't wrestling last summer, but I would've rather put up a substitute than forfeit the title. It seems that the rules are always changing when I'm involved."

Again, the comparison can be made to the rules of boxing. If a champion is injured prior to a title defense and unable to fight, the bout is always cancelled, even if thousands of dollars in tickets have



already been sold and the television arrangements have been made.

Kevin isn't the only World Class wrestler who has had to find a substitute. Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, and Iceman Parsons are the WCCW six-man champions, even though Gordy is no longer teaming with Roberts and Parsons. But Roberts and Parsons have been allowed to keep the title and use a substitute for Gordy.

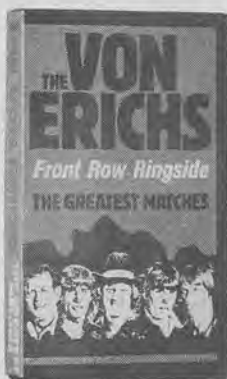
"That makes no sense, either," Kevin said. "In fact, *nothing* makes much sense anymore! I guess from now on, I'm gonna just have to drag myself into the ring no matter how injured I am.

"It's the only way. These guys just won't give me a break." □



A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Von Erich family has long been known as "The First Family Of Professional Wrestling." Now, a deluxe-quality videotape and collectors' edition hardcover book bring all the excitement, drama, tragedy, and triumph of the Von Erichs into your home!



THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

- The entire June 1, 1982, Fritz Von Erich no-disqualification retirement match against King Kong Bundy.
- The complete March 4, 1983, Kevin Von Erich-Terry Gordy match in which Kevin won the World Class American belt!
- Highlights of David Von Erich battling Jim Garvin, Kamala, and Harley Race.
- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against

Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.

- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"Give it up, old man, your day is long gone and past. The day of The Midnight Express is just dawning."

—Jim Cornette

IT'S THE KIND of matchup the fans love to see: two rulebreaking teams, two major titles, and two rival managers coming together in what promises to be a top contender for 1988's Feud of the Year. The only problem is deciding which team to root for; many fans have taken the easy way out by rooting for mutual annihilation!

Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are defending their NWA World tag team belts against U.S. tag champs The Midnight Express, and the fans are reaping the benefits of one of the most exciting series of bouts to grace the federation in years.

Why didn't it happen sooner? Chalk it up to the unwritten rule that virtually prohibits rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker bouts. Or perhaps the rumors linking the Express and The Four Horsemen in a subtle alliance were true.

More likely, however, the egos of the teams' respective managers were just too great. Jim Cornette and J.J. Dillon can't agree on anything, let alone agreeing to have their teams square off in battle. To Dillon, the idea of granting the Midnights a World title shot is appalling; to Cornette, the idea that the Midnights have to prove themselves against Blanchard and Anderson is equally disgusting.

The clash of egos and teams has begun, which made it easy to get these two men together; neither shrinks from the spotlight, and both have plenty of strong words for the other. The only

problem was retaining in print the malignant spirit of the conversation that sent Dillon and Cornette against each other . . . "One on One."

J.J. DILLON:

Good day, Mr. Cornette. You know, I was with your mother the other day, and . . .

JIM CORNETTE:

Whoa, there, old man, at least I have a mother! You, no doubt, were born of some skunk rat or out of some test tube. I heard you visited home last week. How is DuPont Labs nowadays? They remember you? Probably not. When a person ages like you have, one is almost unrecognizable from the days when he was a bouncing baby boy. Babies put smiles on people's faces; you make people

throw up. If you were with my mother, it was probably to beg for a loan!

JJD: Very good, Jimmy. It's good to see that the famous Cornette humor hasn't disappeared just because his boys are getting their butts kicked clear across the country by the NWA World tag team champions. You know, people ask me why Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson never granted The Midnight Express a shot at the World championship, and my answer is simple: I was protecting my good friend Jim Cornette from the embarrassment of watching his team get beaten. Obviously, Jim, you just didn't know where your bread is buttered.

JC: And you know why I never pressed for a title shot before? Because I believed the rumors

N ONE



"You will never lay your stinking paws on those World tag belts, as long as I'm alive."

—J.J. Dillon

that J.J. Dillon was honorable enough as a man to offer my Midnight Express—Sweet Stan and Beautiful Bobby, twin sons of different mothers, the human highlight film of professional wrestling—the title shots they deserved. Well, we waited, and waited, and waited, and you never gave us a shot. I guess that proves that the people who are spreading the rumors of your almighty beneficence are those same people I see Ric Flair leave the arena with. You better watch out for your boy, J.J., I swear one of the women he left with had one eye in the center of her head, a pair of antennae, and . . .

JJD: A tennis racket growing out of her ear? That's another reason why I never gave your boys a title shot. I knew very well that there was no way that tennis

racket of yours wasn't going to be a factor. I've seen the way you operate, Jimmy boy, I know what your idea of a fair match is.

JC: That's fine, J.J., I'll agree to give up my regular game of tennis if you agree to wear your bedroom slippers to ringside. One piece of advice: Do try to be tasteful and not wear your fluffy pink ones. To hear Lex Luger talk about it, it sounds like you've been wearing steel-plated boots!

JJD: So that's what you're up to, Cornette? Defending Lex Luger? You know, there are some things I can understand. I can understand why you would want your overachievers to get a shot at the most prestigious tag team belts in the world, belts that are worth 10 times as much as those

cheap pieces of tin Lane and Eaton are wearing around their waists. I can understand why you'd want to be considered in the same breath as J.J. Dillon, the finest wrestling mind in the world. But this is a new tune, Cornette. Defending Luger? What's come over you?

JC: I'm not defending Luger by any standards except your own double ones. It's just that the man's got a welt on his head the size of that huge mountain on Mars, what's its name? The 78,000-foot one? C'mon, J.J., you were born there, help me out, what's it called?

JJD: You're talking about Mama Cornette?

JC: Good one, J.J., and not entirely inaccurate. I'd say that my mama rises way above you, Dillon, maybe even 78,000 feet. She's so mighty that she doesn't need to soil herself with our petty bickering. All she has to do is keep supplying me with the financial resources to run you out of wrestling and I'll make sure it happens. And it's *going* to happen. Be sure of that.

JJD: Now wait a minute, Cornette. When this whole thing first started, you just wanted a shot at Tully and Arn. Well, you got it. And now that you've been frustrated countless times by a superior tag team, you're talking about running me out of wrestling. Well, let me warn you, Cornette: It's not just *me* you have to deal with, it's Flair, and Blanchard, and Arn, and Windham, and the whole Four Horsemen concept. You're fighting something you just can't beat, but I could've told you *that* months ago.

JC: You *did*, J.J., you *did*! You also told me that The Midnight Express would never meet Blanchard and Anderson for the World belts. Looks like everything you say doesn't come true, does it?

JJD: Maybe not, Cornette, but this will: You will never lay your stinking paws on those World tag belts as long as I'm alive.

JC: That's been about 12 decades already. Give it up, old man, your day is long gone and past. The day of The Midnight Express is just dawning. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

sincerely hope that Honky Tonk gets the haircut he deserves. It's just you guys in the media trying to stick your noses in where they doesn't belong. Especially the writer of that garbage article; he's no better than the announcers who constantly mock Beefcake. No one gives Brutus the recognition and credit he deserves.

WENDY DeSANTO
East Haven, CT

NOTES ON THE NOTEBOOK

Well, you guys finally did it. You finally got me to agree with Stu Saks. Usually I have no tolerance for the whining of this wet-behind-the-ears editor, but his "Editor's Notebook" in your October 1988 issue really changed all that. In it, Saks bemoaned the existence of the unwritten rule prohibiting matches pitting fan favorite against fan favorite or rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker.

Saks is right, it's terrible. But the

only problem is that these "unwritten rules" are the hardest to combat; the federations will *never* admit they exist. So how do you change something that "doesn't exist"?

I don't think we can expect the WWF to change. They've built their strong foundation on the very "good vs. evil" cartoon premise that forms the basis of this unwritten rule.

The NWA is our only hope. Al-

A PERMANENT BAN

How could it have happened? I'm talking about the fact that Col. DeBeers is being allowed to return to the AWA! After his near-crippling of Jimmy Snuka, I thought I'd never see the South African madman again. I was sadly mistaken.

If anyone deserved a lifetime ban, it was DeBeers. Not only did he commit atrocities the likes of which I have nev-



Col DeBeers, the South African sadist, begins brutalizing Jimmy Snuka. Reader Nomi Hurwitz believes that DeBeers should not have been allowed back into wrestling.

ready I'm seeing change, and it's a change for the better. We've seen matches pitting The Midnight Express against Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. That's a good start. I suggest they feature Al Perez in a match against World champ Ric Flair. As champion, Flair should meet challengers of *every* style—just like he used to, that is. Now that he no longer meets rulebreakers, Flair has gotten soft.

Saks is right. Let's have *real* competition!

JIM GASGOYNE
Providence, RI

er seen, he did so during a match that didn't even involve him! Larry Zbyszko was wrestling Snuka, and out of nowhere DeBeers comes to ringside to interfere. He almost killed Snuka piledriving him on a cement floor. For this he is allowed to return?

Somebody should put an end to the madness!

NOMI HURWITZ
Great Neck, NY

THE DiBIASE FEDERATION

While many fans are only concerned with what they see in the ring, I am concerned with the *business* of professional wrestling. I've witnessed Ted DiBiase's quest for the WWF title, from

(Continued on page 51)

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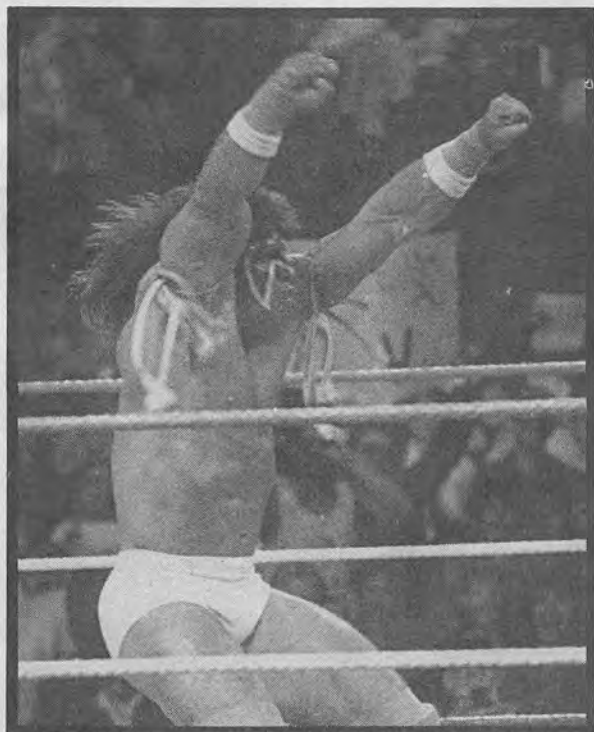
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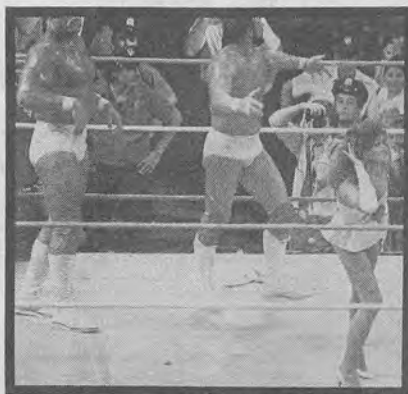
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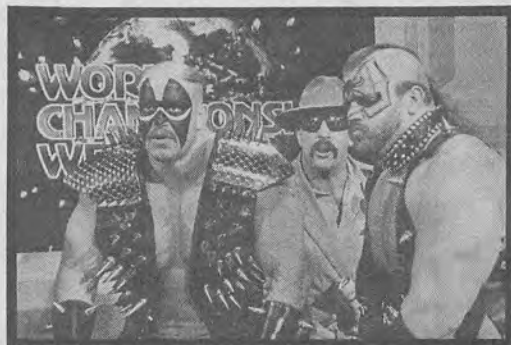
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)

Hulk Hogan to Andre The Giant to Randy Savage, and I am convinced that DiBiase wants much more than just the WWF World title: He wants the WWF!



Ted DiBiase, according to reader Kevin Powell, has bought almost everyone in trying to win a world title. The next step? Buy the WWF itself!

DiBiase has bought off challengers, referees, and even President Jack Tunney. There's only one logical thing left for him to do: buy the entire federation. It's a natural step given the startling financial resources at his fingertips.

DiBiase is the finest wrestler in the world, next to NWA World champion Ric Flair. Ted also has a fine business mind, or else he wouldn't be "The Million-Dollar Man." As a wrestler he may not be a favorite, but he's an honorable businessman who could make wrestling the sporting attraction it could be.

I doubt it would be renamed the DiBiase Wrestling Federation, but it would be nice to see the World Wrestling Federation instead of the Caricature Wrestling Federation. That's what the WWF is now.

KEVIN POWELL
Los Angeles □

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

from using the ropes for leverage makes perfect sense.) Von Erich was pinned and had no way out, so he simply draped his foot over the bottom rope.

And that's enough to stop a three-count?

"Rules are rules," Lawler said, "but I can see what you're saying. Maybe there should be a change in the way that rule is interpreted. Just putting your foot over the ropes shouldn't be enough, although I can see the rule's good points. A pinfall should be hard to achieve, and this certainly makes it tougher. It's gotta be in the center of the ring."

Dick Kroll, who has refereed in the WWF and NWA for many years, added that the rule is very hard to enforce, simply because it asks the referee to look in two directions at once.

"There's almost no way that you can look at the wrestler's shoulders and feet at the same time, so you have to make split-second glances in both directions," Kroll said. "Of course, then you're taking attention away from the pin. It's very difficult. Usually, you have to get clues from the angle of the wrestler's body and then you know whether he has his foot over the ropes."

Lawler and Luger aren't the only ones who have been denied championships because of the ropes rule. It's happened countless times in wrestling history. There have also been many situations in which a wrestler has had his foot over the ropes but the pin counted anyway. When that happens, there's usually an uproar from the wrestler, the fans, and the press.

The most famous incident occurred in Madison Square Garden on February 20, 1978, when Bob Backlund won the WWF title from Superstar Graham. Late in the

match, Backlund hoisted the champion on his shoulder and slammed him down onto his raised knee. Graham bounced off Backlund's knee and landed on the mat with his right foot draped over the lower rope. Referee Jack Lotz failed to see this, however, and gave the three-count as Backlund covered Graham at 14:51.

The Grand Wizard, Graham's manager, protested the decision. A special fan ballot appeared in *The Wrestler* asking, "Should Bob

Backlund applying the pin, not the man getting pinned. Ten years later, Backlund agrees. "Looking back, I see no reason why I should've given up the belt," Backlund said. "It was a clean pin."

Too many matches end with disqualifications and outside interference. There are too many ways for a champion to avoid getting pinned. Wrestling allows too much leeway to inferior wrestlers.

There are too many ways to lose without really losing, and too many ways to win without really



Ten years ago, Superstar Graham howls in anger as Bob Backlund walks off with the victory—and the WWF World title—although Graham's leg was clearly on the ropes.

Backlund return the WWF belt to Superstar Graham?" "According to the rules, if any portion of the wrestler's body is touching the ropes, both wrestlers must break," the accompanying story read. The fans hated Graham, however, and supported Backlund. He kept the belt.

I question the interpretation, as well as the wisdom, of the rule. When first written, it probably was meant to apply only to the wres-

winning. The truth is, we don't see many pinfalls in championship matches.

"The referee should probably use more judgment in these situations," said Kerry Von Erich. "When you get right down to it, I was pinned, foot or no foot. My foot over the rope didn't make it easier or harder for Jerry to pin me. It's just a rule that I took advantage of. It was there and I took it." □

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OCTOBER 1986

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May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.
June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.
July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.
August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.
October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.
November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.
December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.
January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.
February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.
March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.
April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Flockers.
May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.
July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.
September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.
October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.
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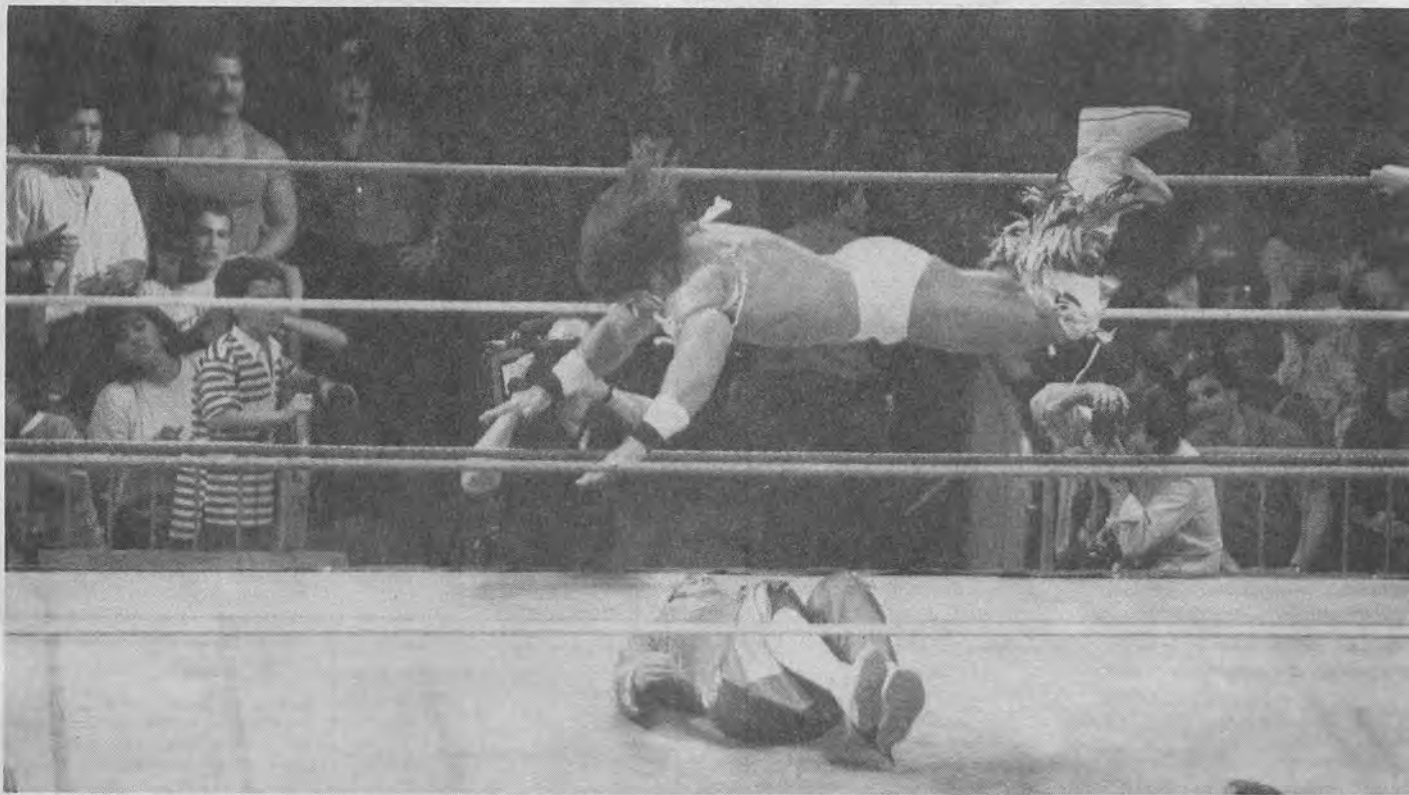
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ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(Continued from page 33)



The Warrior finishes Honky Tonk off with a big splash prior to pinning him (above). Everything happened so quickly that the Warrior didn't have to worry about interference from Jimmy Hart, whom he usually deals with promptly (below).

accustomed to Honky Tonk's giant ego were surprised when he grabbed the microphone from ring announcer Howie Finkel and issued his demands.

"I knew what Warrior had done to him before," said one ringside fan, "and I couldn't believe Honky would risk it again. He deserves everything he got. He was asking for trouble."

Critics of the ex-champion agree that Honky Tonk got more than he bargained for. "He wasn't prepared at all," said *Inside Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter. "Ultimate Warrior was primed and ready. Honky Tonk—well, just to look in his eyes, you could tell he wasn't ready to wrestle the Warrior."

Actually, you could tell he wasn't ready by the way he wrestled. Or didn't wrestle. By the time Warrior flew into the ring, the dissection was already underway. Honky Tonk, off-balance, tried to back away to

gain time. Warrior caught him with three whopping punches that sent the champion to the mat. Warrior immediately followed up on his advantage. He pounded Honky Tonk to the canvas with a thundering bodyslam. Seconds later, he rebounded off the ropes and met Honky Tonk in mid-air with a crunching shouldertackle, then followed up with a clothesline that nearly ripped Honky Tonk's perfectly coiffed head off his spangled shoulders. One awe-inspiring big splash later, Warrior hooked Honky Tonk's leg into a pin and it was all over. As a hastily written placard by ringside stated: *The music is dead; long live the quiet.*

The 31-second victory, which shattered Sammartino's record for quickest win in a WWF title match by 17 seconds, made one veteran especially happy.

"Glad to have that one wiped off the books," joked former NWA and



WWF champion Buddy Rogers. "I know what it's like to lose a match before it starts. In watching films of the match, you can see Ultimate Warrior and Bruno shared the same intensity and hunger. Neither had won a major title. Both were young, strong, and aggressive. Bruno's advantage against my experience was to manage a quick start. Of course, I didn't—and I'm sure neither did Honky Tonk Man—bargain for such a quick finish."

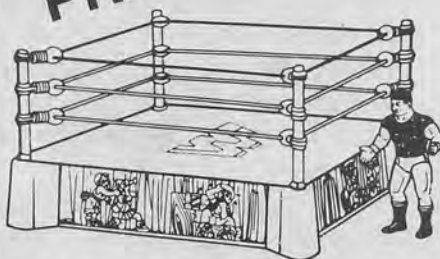
Recently appointed New York State Athletic Commissioner Randy Gordon, a former *Inside Wrestling* editor, compared the encounter to the recent boxing match between Mike Tyson and Michael Spinks. "Warrior went further than to erase any doubts he was the better wrestler," said Gordon, whose ringside seat gave him a prime view of the carnage. "Just as Tyson destroyed Spinks physically and psychologically, Warrior's effort was one of complete domination. He gave his opponent no opportunity to recover. I would be surprised and impressed if Honky Tonk ever returns the same from such a beating."

When Honky Tonk first won the I-C belt from Rick Steamboat in June 1987, the mere mention of his name in the company of knowledgeable wrestling fans elicited a lengthy list of his shortcomings. Offended by his song-and-dance defense of his belt, they dismissed him as a lucky champion, and were confident his title reign would soon be over.

Fourteen months later, after he eclipsed the reign of every other Intercontinental champion, Honky Tonk still found the respect of the fans and his peers an elusive quarry. No doubt there will be gloating after this devastating defeat. "In order to gain any measure of respect, he must return to the ring," Rogers says. "It's what I did, it's what anyone must do to make things right."

We'll see what Ultimate Warrior has to say about it. ☐

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

like Snuka's in a big title match—and successfully?

While narrowly missing the grand prize, Dwayne receives a special citation for the letter containing (a) the most underlined passages, and (b) the brilliant deployment of different colored pens.

DiAndre Summerville (address and gender unknown) also cites a cage match involving Jimmy Snuka. He/she selects the memorable Snuka-Bob Backlund battle for the WWF title as the greatest mat moment ever. DiAndre writes:

... the turning point in this match was when Snuka climbed to the top of the cage to perform his "superfly leap" and missed. Next time, I'm confident Mr./Ms. Summerville will tell us something we don't already know.

For Tiffany (relation to rock star uncertain) Mullendore of Boonsboro, Maryland, the greatest moment in wrestling history was when *Andre the Giant* defeated Hulk Hogan for the WWF ti-

tle—then gave the belt to Ted DiBiase thus proving, once and for all, what a *Giant Idiot* he really is. Reviving the repugnant image of the Giant Idiot will not capture Tiffany a T-shirt, but it does win her my respect.

Mitch Schneider, writing from St. Louis, wastes no time in describing his most memorable moment as the time *The Four Horsemen* attacked *Dusty Rhodes* in the parking lot and beat him like the dog he is. Now, Mitch, was that *really* your most memorable moment, or simply a time you giggled a lot?

By far, readers consider the classic *WrestleMania III* encounter between Rick Steamboat and Randy Savage as their most popular "greatest moment." Alex Grover of Fort Wayne, Indiana, summarized the following key points:

... it settled the feud between the two in a scientific, fast-paced match that was without a single dull moment. It crowned a new

champion in front of a record-setting crowd. "*Macho Man's*" loss set up an incredible chain of events. It allowed *Honky Tonk Man* to win the *Intercontinental belt*, thereby setting up a feud between *Honky Tonk* and *Savage*. This allowed *Hogan* and *Savage* to align into *The Megapowers*, which eventually resulted in *Savage's* capture of the WWF crown. This precipitated the feud between *Savage* and *DiBiase*, which culminated in the *SummerSlam '88* spectacular at *Madison Square Garden*...

About the only thing Alex was unable to link the match with was the Kennedy assassination.

There's still time left in the contest, so get the lead out of your ... pencil.

●

I will address the *SummerSlam '88* main event at length in a future issue, but one disquieting aspect demands immediate attention. Longtime readers of this column will recall a momentary infatuation this columnist had with Elizabeth. The April 1985 "Insider" is a tongue-in-cheek plea for the lovely manager to drop Randy Savage in favor of my alluring charms. Imagine my surprise then, in the middle of the *Savage/Hogan-DiBiase/Giant Idiot* main event, when Elizabeth shed her skirt in a desperate effort to distract the opposition. There she was, parading around one garment away from being in her birthday suit, while DiBiase and Andre watched in stunned fascination. What distinguished Elizabeth from the rest of the WWF circus had been her breeding and class *in addition* to her great beauty. Apparently, the peer pressure to act like a buffoon became too much for her to bear. Her capitulation to the dark side is one of wrestling's greatest tragedies. □



Elizabeth and Randy Savage celebrate the Megapowers' victory at SummerSlam 88. Eddie Ellner was dismayed by Elizabeth's willingness to shed her skirt to distract the opposition.

HOTSEAT

(Continued from page 41)

A: I don't like that Cornette doesn't wrestle. It's okay to be a manager if you wrestle, if you can actually get in there and face the fury. With Cornette, he's just an imitator. He's got a tennis racket, but he doesn't look like Bjorn Borg to me.

Q: You have always been noted for your outspokenness. But you are twice as tough on Roddy Piper as you are on others. For instance, your role in *Hell Comes To Frogtown*, which is making the rounds in the video stores around here right now as we speak. We understand you weren't thrilled with it.

A: I hate that show! Some critics reviewed it and gave it a fair review, but I'm real critical of myself. I always like to pick myself apart no matter how bad I am. You know, it's been real hard for me to adapt to Hollywood, because we come from two totally different backgrounds. We come from different social values. Like, they'll sit someone down there who's looking for a series or something, and they'll say, "Oh, his hair's too long" or "Oh, he's too fat." You don't want to be saying that stuff to me, 'cause where I come from, you just don't do that! We don't get along really easily right now. We just don't mesh all that well. Plus right now there's a lot of jocks, like Schwarzenegger, Alzado, myself, going into it, and you find a lot of animosity from actors and stunt men when you just walk right into a starring role. I tried to make them feel as comfortable as possible, but it comes to a point where you just wanna say, "take a hike, man."

Q: Well, Roddy, thanks for the interview, and good luck with your acting career.

A: Anytime, man. It's always a pleasure. ☐

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FLAIR VS. LUGER

(Continued from page 35)



Luger puts the champion in his devastating "torture rack" backbreaker (above) and traps Flair against the turnbuckle (below). With each title match, Luger's confidence grows, as does Flair's reliance on the Horsemen.



that, only moments before, had mingled with the sweat of disappointment. As the champion left the arena—a beautiful young woman draped on each arm—it was clear that Flair no longer had a reason to question his own physical abilities.

J.J. Dillon lingered, eager as ever to answer questions. When asked about his champion's lapse of conviction, however, Dillon took the offensive.

"You're always digging for a story that's just not there," he yelled. "Have you ever donned the tights and gotten in the ring? Have you ever been a champion?"

There was no answer from the reporter forthcoming.

"I knew you didn't, you wimps," he continued. "Well, I have and I know what it's like. Now then. In Ric's case, the man wrestles Luger maybe three or four times a week. That's three or four hard-fought title defenses against a young challenger. Three or four matches every week of every year. That's endurance. That's why being a

champion for as long as he has is such an awe-inspiring accomplishment.

"Look at boxing champions, for example," Dillon continued. "They'll have a title defense then rest for six months. Their next fight will usually be against a lesser challenger on his way up. And then they get another six months rest before the next bum comes along. In wrestling, every title match is a 'Superfight.'

"Ric defends his title almost every day. So if he says, in a moment of temporary exhaustion, that he feels a little tired, well, I, for one, can understand. Besides," Dillon continued, cracking a wry smile, "he didn't look so 'exhausted' when he left here with those two female fans of his."

But neither his manager's witticisms nor his sudden transformation back to egotistical confidence could erase the fact that Flair feels the pressure of Luger's challenge. Flair has actually begun to sweat. And even his Horsemen compatriots have seen it.

"Sure, I've seen Ric acting a little tense lately," said fellow Horseman Tully Blanchard. "But it's no big deal. He's under constant attack from Luger, just as we're all under attack."

"Four Horsemen, four belts." That's not just a saying, it's the very reason everybody's aiming at us," Blanchard said with emotion. Then, glancing down at the World tag team belt around his waist, he added, "You don't wear these and expect to have a vacation. Sure, Ric's being tested, but he's still the champion and will be the champion until he decides he's had enough."

Although the Horsemen continue to display their characteristic confidence, Blanchard's tone was decidedly nervous, as if he was merely repeating the Horsemen line without actually believing it. Flair, as well, speaks with a voice that betrays a frailty his ego and ability can't hide. The voice sounds confident, but it's hollow.

And if you catch him at the right moment, that confidence vanishes, replaced by the self-doubts that periodically blemish the flowing robes worn by the King of the Horsemen. ☐

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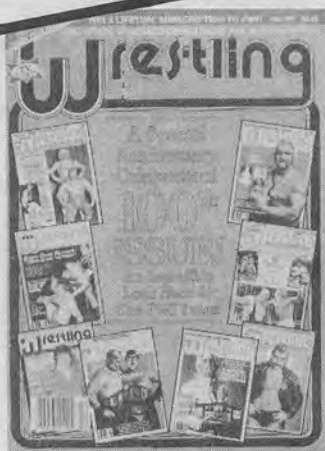
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)



The vanquished Von Erich uses the public address system to issue his protest that referee Billy Travis delivered a three-count while Kerry's foot was on the ropes. After seeing the tapes, Lawler, not Travis, reversed the decision.

if the referee misinterpreted the rules. In the case of human error—a fly ball ruled caught when actually it was trapped, a penalty overlooked—the result of the game remains. Human error, like bats and balls, foul lines, and ring ropes, are part of the game.

Although Von Erich and World Class filed a protest, it is doubtful whether the decision would have been altered. Referee Travis's pin count falls into the province of human error. Most likely Lawler would have retained Von Erich's belt.

But Lawler's slow and painful climb to the top has been one of fidelity and honor. Had he succumbed to the cheating and chiseling ways of some of his colleagues, he could have cut years off his quest for a world title. Fortunately, that's not, nor has it ever been, Lawler's style.

"I can't keep this belt," he told Paula. "There is no way I can keep this belt."

"I know," his wife agreed. "Who do you want to speak to first, the media or Kerry?"

Lawler's first call was to Kerry Von Erich to inform him he was relinquishing all claims to the World Class title.

"I'm watching the videotape right now," he told Von Erich, "and I can't believe I'm seeing your foot on the ropes! Did you edit this tape before I got it?"

Von Erich laughed. "I kept telling you my foot was on the rope. I told Travis my foot was on the rope. I told the little kid sitting in the second row my foot was on the rope! A lot of good it did me."

"Just think if you were wrestling Eddie Gilbert," Lawler said. "Where do you think the belt

would be now?"

"Don't remind me," said Von Erich. "It isn't often I get a phone call like this. In our sport, unfortunately, the tarnish overwhelms the polish. I won't forget this, Jerry. Let's get back in the ring. I'll be sure to remove your belt, this time *without* any controversy."

You can be certain that these two ring legends are itching to do battle again. If they do, it's unlikely they'll have to again face the improbable chain of events that led to Lawler's remarkable display of sportsmanship.

Early in the match, Lawler ducked a powerful Von Erich discus punch. Referee Calhoun, whose view was partially blocked by Lawler, was not as fortunate. The punch knocked the official off his feet. He wouldn't regain consciousness for several minutes.

Promoter Eddie Marlin replaced Calhoun with Frank Morell, whose luck was as bad as his predecessor's. Rebounding off the ropes, Lawler ducked under Von Erich's leapfrog and crashed headfirst into Morell's groin. The hapless official, in great pain, was assisted from the ring. The atmosphere assumed an air of burlesque as fans and wrestlers looked at each other in confusion.

Marlin, shaking his head, asked the wrestlers if they'd allow wrestler Billy Travis to officiate the match. "I thought a wrestler may be able to finish refereeing the match in one piece," Marlin said. Both wrestlers, anxious to resume the action, agreed. The match progressed smoothly, with each wrestler trading advantages, until Travis mistakenly counted Von Erich down.

"Hopefully, we'll go with one ref from beginning to end next time," Lawler said later. And hopefully, in the face of the next controversy, Lawler will continue to uphold his reputation as one of the most honest men ever to step foot in the ring. ☐

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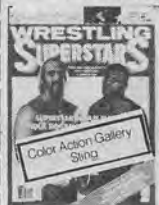
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(Continued from page 37)

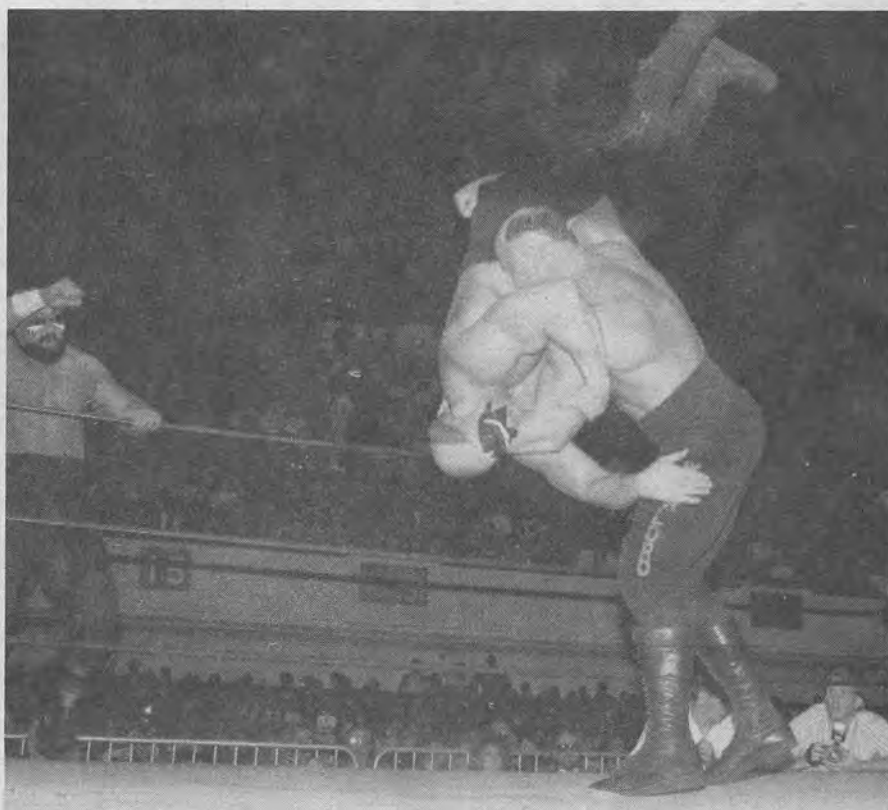


tions in the ring. After his NWA debut in late 1986, he and Baby Doll went to the Central States area, where The Warlord feuded with ... The Barbarian!

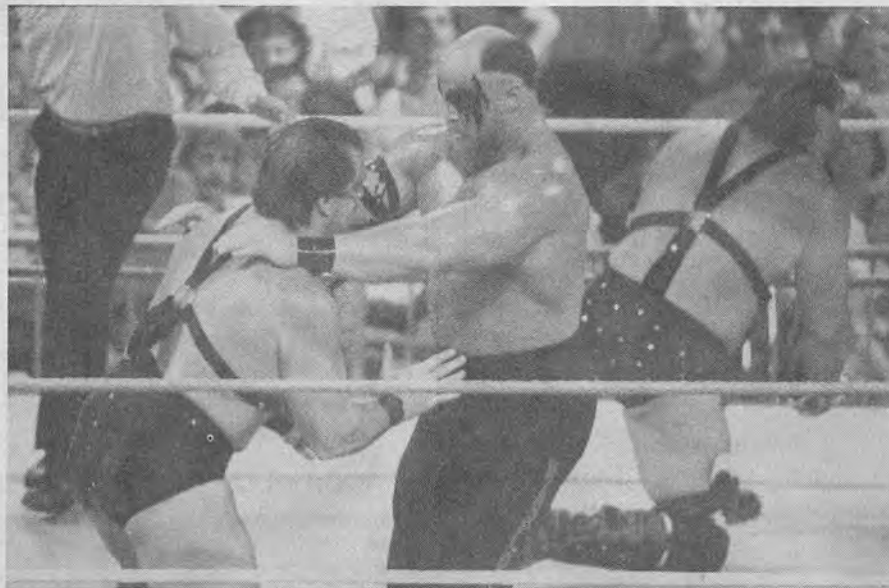
Eventually, after Baby Doll left the management side of the sport, Warlord put the old feud aside and Jones hooked him up with Barbarian. The Powers of Pain were born. Jones finally felt he had the team that would bring him wrestling immortality. "I felt like a scientist who'd discovered a magic potion," Jones once observed.

With Ivan Koloff as their coach, the Powers quickly rose in the NWA tag team rankings. After thoroughly dominating weak competition, the Powers headed for their biggest test: The Road Warriors. Jones challenged Hawk and Animal to a weightlifting contest. "He was shrewd," said a close friend who requested anonymity. "He knows that the Roadies and [Paul] Ellering have tremendous egos that wouldn't allow them to back down from any challenge. Once they accepted, his plan went into action."

The competition took place in January 1988. And the result almost cost Road Warrior Animal his career. Just as Animal was about to bench press the 600-pound barbell,



Warlord slams Road Warrior Hawk (above) and takes on Demolition (below). Warlord is shown with his Powers of Pain partner Barbarian and their former manager Paul Jones (above left).



Koloff threw chalk dust in his and Hawk's faces. While Animal was blinded, Warlord grabbed him and smashed his head into the weights. Animal suffered a serious eye injury that kept him out of action for several weeks.

The Warriors got their revenge in a series of ladder matches.

"There's no way that those slimy skunk droppings are gonna get away with *anything* against us," Road Warrior Hawk snarled at the time. "We're gonna teach those neo-maxi zoom dweeb dingbat slimebags a lesson in pain they'll wish they never had to learn."

But learn they did.

"They took the lessons of that whipping very seriously," Jones' friend said. "They knew that if they were going to be the team everyone expected them to be, they would have to do things a little differently."

Beating the Warriors in the quarterfinals of the 1988 Crockett Cup tournament gave the Powers a boost of confidence, so Jones believed that his men were ready for another series of confrontations with The Legion of Doom. The manager signed for scaffold matches all during the 1988 Great American Bash series.

Jones thought his men were eager for the challenge, but the Powers declined to go up on the scaffold. As a result, they left for the WWF.

"Cowards!" Jones shrieked. "All the training and care I gave them, and look how they pay me back! I pity them if they ever come back to this area. My men will pound their sorry carcasses into the dust of the earth!"

Tito Santana had recruited Warlord and Barbarian to help him and Rick Martel in their war with Demolition. In the Powers, Santana found willing allies. Eager to prove themselves all over again in a new federation, they defeated Ax and Smash in several non-title matches. Almost immediately, fans accepted them as conquering heroes.

But Warlord and Barbarian are motivated not by heroism, but by opportunity. "They're not 'good guys,'" said Jones' confidant. "The only reason they're going after Demolition is because Ax and Smash happen to have the belts now. If The British Bulldogs had the title, *that's* who the Powers would be trying to tear apart. Warlord and Barbarian are still two of the nastiest wrestlers I've ever known. You talk about trust? The word isn't even in their vocabulary. They don't trust each other; how can anybody else trust them?"

Indeed. ☐

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WINTER 1985



SUMMER 1986

SPRING 1984/Color pinups: Superstar-Bravo, Adrian Street, Hansen-Race, Valiant-Kabuki. **Stories include:** Warriors, Kerry Von Erich, Bockwinkel, Santana, Hansen.

SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. **Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Omdorff.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Omdorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khru-shev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Omdorff, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Supercards, Williams, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, R&R Express, Hart, Hogan-Race, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan-Andre-DiBiase, Ellering-Dillon-Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 8— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 12— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 5— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 9— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 13— STEVE DiSALVO
298, Boston, MA |
| 3— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 6— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 10— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 14— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL |
| | 7— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV | 15— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 8— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 12— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA |
| 2— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 13— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA |
| 3— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 6— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 10— RICK MORTON
228, Memphis, TN | 14— BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA |
| | 7— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL | 11— RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI | 15— RUSSIAN ASSASSIN
330, Leningrad, Russia |

AWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 4— SOLDAT USTINOV
265, Moscow, Russia | 8— AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV | 12— CHAVO GUERRERO
230, Mexico City, MEX |
| 2— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— WAHOO McDANIEL
280, Midland, TX | 9— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 13— JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN |
| 3— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 6— MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX | 10— MANDO GUERRERO
225, Mexico City, Mexico | 14— RICKY RICE
230, Edina, MN |
| | 7— COL. DEBEERS
248, Cape Town, South Africa | 11— TEIHO KHAN
265, Singapore | 15— HECTOR GUERRERO
218, Mexico City, MEX |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 8— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA | 12— BIG BOSSMAN
348, Louisville, KY |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 5— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 9— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 13— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
255, Tampa, FL |
| 3— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 6— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 10— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 14— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN |
| | 7— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 11— BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY | 15— DINO BRAVO
246, Montreal, Quebec |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
Last month: unrated | 4— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 8— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 12— AUSTIN IDOL
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 5— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 13— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
Last month: unrated |
| 3— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 10— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 14— RICK MORTON
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 11— KEVIN VON ERICH
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 15— STEVE DiSALVO
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 8— GREG VALENTINE
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 12— HERCULES AYALA
Last month: unrated |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 5— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 9— KEVIN SULLIVAN
Last month: unrated | 13— TOMMY RICH
Last month: unrated |
| 3— TED DiBIASE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 6— EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 10— BUDDY ROBERTS
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated | 14— MANNY FERNANDEZ
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated |
| | 7— THE HONKY TONK MAN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 11— ICEMAN PARSONS
Last month: unrated | 15— MAKHAN SINGH
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1— TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title | 11— THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM
World Class tag team champions |
| 2— DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions | 7— PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
AWA World tag team champions | 12— JERRY MORROW & CUBAN ASSASSIN
Stampede International tag team champions |
| 3— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 2 contenders: NWA World tag team title | 8— THE HART FOUNDATION
No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 13— BOBBY JAGGERS & DAN KROFFAT
WWC Caribbean tag team champions |
| 4— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
U.S. tag team champions | 9— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 14— RICK MORTON & BRAD ARMSTRONG
No. 4 contenders: NWA World tag team title |
| 5— THE WARLORD & THE BARBARIAN
No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 10— SHANE DOUGLAS & HUMONGOUS
Continental tag team champions | 15— RICKY RICE & JOHN PAUL
No. 1 contenders: AWA World tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended September 1, 1988

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JACK ARMSTRONG
(December 12, 1987; from Victor Rivera; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
PETER MAIVIA JR. & PROFESSOR TANAKA
(February 26, 1988; from The Mercenaries; Universal City, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
TOSHIKI KAMADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI
(March 9, 1988; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

* **ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU
(July 31, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Hakodate, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: STAN HANSEN
(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(most recently held by Chigusa Nagayo)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA AOMATSU
(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
YUMIKO HOTTA & MITSUKO NISHIWAKI
(July 19, 1988; from Bull Nakano & Kumiko Iwamoto; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Adrian Adonis; Las Vegas)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Divine; Las Vegas)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(May 9, 1988; from Curt Hennig; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: JOHNNY SMITH
(June 24, 1988; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by D.J. Peterson)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Rick Patterson & Steve Ray)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LORD HUMONGOUS & SHANE DOUGLAS
(July 18, 1988; from D.I. Bob Carter & Pvt. Pyle; Birmingham, AL)

* **CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEN WAYNE**
(August 8, 1988; from Dan Davis; Birmingham, AL)

CWA CHAMPION: PHIL HICKERSON
(July 10, 1988; from Max Pain; Memphis, TN)

* **CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs**
(August 15, 1988; from Scott Steiner & Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO
(April 18, 1987; from Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASA SAITO & RIKI CHOSHU
(June 10, 1988; from Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(June 24, 1988; from Owen Hart; Osaka, Japan)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DUSTY RHODES & THE ROAD WARRIORS
(July 9, 1988; over Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, & Arn Anderson; Chicago)

NWA TV CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO
(January 26, 1988; from Nikita Koloff; Raleigh, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
(April 20, 1988; over Lex Luger & Barry Windham; Jacksonville, FL)

NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE
(March 20, 1988; from Larry Winters; Forked River, NJ)

* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTT PETERSON**
(August 5, 1988; from The Grappler; Eugene, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON
(May 7, 1988; from Mike Golden & The Avalanche; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

* **PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYU & ASHURA HARA**
(August 29, 1988; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MAKHAN SINGH
(May 6, 1988; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
JERRY MORROW & THE CUBAN ASSASSIN

(July 22, 1988; from Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM
(May 13, 1988; tournament final over Nikita Koloff; Houston)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
(July 10, 1988; from The Fantastics; Baltimore)

WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO
(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)

WILD WEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
(May 8, 1988; from Steve Simpson & Terry Gordy; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH
(May 8, 1988; from Iceman Parsons; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(December 25, 1987; from Shaun Simpson; Dallas)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:
KERRY VON ERICH, KEVIN VON ERICH, & MICHAEL HAYES
(July 8, 1988; from Iceman Parsons, Kamala, & Buddy Roberts; Dallas)

* **WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
(August 12, 1988; from Kerry & Kevin Von Erich; Dallas)

* **WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS**
(August 5, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich, substituting for Kevin Von Erich; Dallas)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON
(July 9, 1988; from John Tatum & Jack Victory; Temple, TX)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI
(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu)

WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIGHTY MILO & TEU
(May 17, 1988; from Farmer Boy Ipo & Leroy Brown; Honolulu)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE
(March 17, 1988; from Masa Chono; Kansas City, KS)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**
(August 13, 1988; from TNT; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY JAGGERS & DAN KROFFAT
(June 11, 1988; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE INVADER III
(April 23, 1988; from Tony Falk; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA**
(August 6, 1988; from Super Black Ninja; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN**
(August 6, 1988; from Kendo Nagasaki & Mr. Pogo; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Hercules Ayala)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

* **WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(August 29, 1988; from The Honky Tonk Man; New York)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE
(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION
(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL
(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston)

WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN
(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

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- Roddy Piper vs. Greg Valentine in a dog-collar match
- Ric Flair regains the NWA title from Harley Race in a bloody cage match at "Starrcade '83"
- The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones
- The Von Erichs vs. The Freebirds
- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link
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- Jimmy Valiant vs. Paul Jones
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QTY	#	DESCRIPTION	QTY	#	DESCRIPTION	QUAN	Description	PRICE EACH	TOTAL	
	5602	"New"Hulk Hogan (Limited Edition)		5607	Honky Tonk Man		ACTION FIGURES, checked at left	\$11.99		
	5529	Original Hulk Hogan (limited quantities)		5609	Bam Bam Bigelow	5641	STRIKE FORCE TAGTEAM	\$23.98		
	5595	Jumping Jim Brunzell		5604	Ted Dibiase	5517	HART FOUNDATION TAGTEAM	\$23.98		
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	5461	Kamala		5623	Hacksaw Jim Duggan	5431	16" ROWDY RODDY PIPER	\$24.99		
	5479	Adrian Adonis		5603	Rick Martel	5420	WWF WRESTLING RING	\$16.99		
	5449	Harley Race		5421	"New" Tito Santana (not pictured)	5426	WWF STEEL CAGE ACCESSORY	\$14.99		
	5598	Vince McMahon		5619	Billy Jack Haynes		SHIRTS, OUTFITS & NOVELTIES CATALOG	\$2.00		
	5462	Koko B Ware		5528	The Referee	PLEASE INCLUDE POSTAGE AND HANDLING USING THIS CHART Up to \$24.00 \$2.75 \$24.01 - \$39.99 \$3.75 \$40.00 - \$49.99 \$4.75 \$50.00 - \$74.99 \$5.75 \$75.00 or more \$6.75		SUB TOTAL		
	5463	Outback Jack		5473	Ted Arcidi			Outside Continental U.S. Include appropriate S/H plus \$7.50		
	5477	Jake the Snake Roberts		5527	Johnny Valiant			MD Residents add 5% Sales Tax		
	5624	Slick		5474	Hercules Hernandez			HANDLING CHARGES (See Chart) Outside Continental U.S. include Handling Charge plus \$7.50		
	5601	Ken Patera		5429	Miss Elizabeth			TOTAL		
	5622	Demolition Ax		5427	Randy Savage	PLEASE INDICATE METHOD OF PAYMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard (16 digits) <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> VISA (13 or 16 digits) YOUR CARD NUMBER _____ (Have you filled out your credit card no. completely?) SIGNATURE _____		Expiration Date _____ MO/YR		
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